

Burg leading Labor's campaign against Ramon

Labor accuses Ramon of trying to co-opt members

THE aggressive tone set by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in his speech at Labor's central committee meeting in Jerusalem Sunday was adopted by the party's campaign staff yesterday, with MK Avraham Burg, formerly a close ally of Ramon's, leading the way.

The staff is focusing on sharp attacks on MK Haim Ramon, while attempting to emphasize incumbent secretary-general Haim Haberfeld's contribution to the Histadrut.

Burg, one of Ramon's group of MKs in Likud, which considered leaving the party together in the 1991 convention or gaining the party leadership after Rabin and Peres, said yesterday that he did not intend to attack Ramon personally, "but we have an argument over democratic norms."

"The battle is no longer Haberfeld against Ramon, it's Rabin against Ramon. And between the peace agreement and the health bill, I say the peace agreement comes first. I say Labor comes first."

Burg added that "you would not catch me uninvolved. I would not say I'm going to the beach to play racketball," a reference to

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Ramon's comment to this effect after he defected from Peres's camp to Rabin's before the party's campaign for leadership in 1991.

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli intended to send the letters of expulsion from party ranks to MKs Haim Ramon, Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital last night, after checking Ramon's list for names of other possible defectors. Labor Knesset Faction Chairman MK Eli Dahan, however, has already begun terminating the three MKs' privileges and activities in the faction's affairs and in the various Knesset positions they hold for Labor.

Labor's Histadrut election campaign staff yesterday accused Ramon's staff of approaching Labor members about quitting their party and joining Ramon's list.

Campaign staff manager Ofir Pines said yesterday that he has received reports from members, especially in southern branches, who have been approached by Ramon's people "with tempting offers and promises. They approach people who are out of work, or who have lost the primaries, or

otherwise disappointed or embittered, and exploit their personal and financial plight in an attempt to lure them away from Labor."

He noted, however, that very few people were tempted and that there was strong objection to crossing the lines, especially among those who supported MK Amir Peretz (now in Ramon's list) in the Histadrut primaries. They were angry at Ramon and Peretz's move to bypass the primaries and violate democratic procedures, Pines said.

Ramon's campaign staff headquarters said in response that "this is the kind of lies that the Histadrut apparatus and Labor Party have specialized in all the years. We have refused to meet anyone unless he had already left Labor. Apparently the vast numbers of members joining us have driven even a nice guy like Ofir Pines to panic."

Ramon's staff yesterday instructed all activists to refrain from any direct attack on Rabin, following the latter's assault on Ramon earlier this week. "We will not humiliate the prime minister like Haberfeld and Zivli did," Ramon said yesterday. "We will return every one of their insults with a bunch of flowers."

Import of foreign workers attacked

EVELYN GORDON

THE government's decision to import 18,000 foreign workers was attacked by MKs from across the political spectrum in the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Anat Maor (Meretz), Avner Shaki (National Religious Party), Ya'acov Shefi (Labor), and David Mena (Likud) all submitted motions that the labor and social affairs committee hold a debate on the issue. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ofir Pines agreed.

Maor stressed that throughout Europe, foreign workers have been a source of racial violence. "We must prevent this from happening here," she said, adding that the best way to do so was not to import workers.

Shaki and Shefi charged that the government's decision is insupportable in light of the high unemployment here.

"[This decision] hurts the chances of reducing unemployment," Shaki said.

Namir, who replied for the government, said she has always opposed foreign workers for exactly the reason cited by Shaki and Shefi. However, she said, because security needs mandated a lengthy closure of

the territories, there was no choice but to permit contractors and farmers to import workers for a limited period of six months, if these industries are not to be destroyed.

"But we are all asking, and justly, why it is impossible to put unemployed Israelis into these jobs," she added. She then gave four reasons why this is so.

The first, she said, is that these jobs generally involve hard physical labor, and are therefore only suitable for young men — only some 3,000 of whom are listed with the Government Employment Service.

Low pay is also a factor, she said, though the government is fighting this by subsidizing agricultural wages to the tune of NIS 30 a day. About 3,300 Israelis have taken agricultural jobs since this program was instituted, she said.

Thirdly, she noted, Israelis are often afraid to work with large numbers of Arabs. The only solution to this problem, she said, is to reach a critical mass of Israeli employees in construction and agriculture.

Finally, Namir said, there is a "culture of unemployment" among some who "see unemployment compensation as a right."

US-Russian confrontation possible over Mideast — Haig

DAVID BAKER

RECENT Russian initiatives in the Middle East — including sales of arms to the Syrians — may eventually bring the US and Russia to a confrontational mode, former US secretary of state Alexander Haig said yesterday.

In an exclusive interview with the Jerusalem Post, Haig pointed to a number of recent Russian moves worth watching.

When asked if he saw a possibility of a renewed conflict between Washington and Moscow, Haig responded, "If the current trends in Moscow continue, I see the United States and the West at large in a confrontational mode with Moscow, rather than a mode of peace and progress."

"I don't mean war. Russia is too weak to contemplate that. I'm talking about collision courses in a

number of areas where political cooperation is desirable. I'm talking about a Russia which is now on a trend... which is designed to re-instate its control over the independent republics of the former Soviet Union, to oppose the prospect of an Eastern Europe in a NATO umbrella, to even put conditions on their cooperation with the partnership for peace," he said.

Regarding Israeli-Syrian intentions, Haig said, "It's too early to say. I think that the first order of business is to determine whether or not Syria truly wants peace, and if that is a point of departure, then everything is possible."

Haig is here as guest of the BESA Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, and the Israeli-American Chamber of Commerce.

Maccabi director pleads guilty to irregular management, other charges

RAINE MARCUS

MACCABI health fund director Rafi Roter and director of the Ramat Marpe and Procardia companies Israel Rotem pleaded guilty on counts of irregular management, conspiracy to achieve a legitimate goal using illegitimate means, and false tax declarations as part of a plea bargain in Tel Aviv District court yesterday.

In return for the guilty pleas, the District Attorney dropped charges of the theft of NIS 58,000 to finance private investigator Udi Hershkovitz's tapping phones of two doctors then employed by Maccabi.

Other counts of wiretapping and listing false registers and receipts were also dropped.

Both suspects deny additional charges of fraud and deception and false invoices pertaining to the purchase of the Basel Hotel by the Procardia company, which was supposed to buy the hotel using a NIS 4 million loan granted by Maccabi.

Woman's report of terror attack turns out to be a hoax

RAINE MARCUS

A BOGUS report that an Arab terrorist had run amok on a Dan bus had the Tel Aviv police force on alert yesterday morning.

A disturbed woman later admitted to Abarbanel Mental Hospital filed a complaint with Ramat Gan police saying that an ax-wielding terrorist had attacked passengers on the No. 66 bus from Petah Tikva to Ramat Gan.

One person was injured, she told police, but other passengers had succeeded in capturing the terrorist, and had bound and gagged him.

Huge forces of police arrived on the scene, but found neither a bus

nor a terrorist.

Under questioning the woman admitted she had invented the incident after she got off the bus. A psychiatrist ruled she was mentally disturbed and committed her to the hospital for observation.

Police reported hundreds of hysterical calls by the public wanting to know more details of the incident.

Army Radio reported initial details of a terrorist attack in Ramat Gan after police issued the report via beeper. Several minutes later, however, they broadcast that the whole incident had been a false alarm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Golan Heights leaders blast Rabin

"Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's remarks before the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee about a deep withdrawal from the Golan Heights indicates [he has] lost his sanity and his way," Golan Heights leaders said in a statement yesterday.

They said that if nothing was done to stop the snowballing move to return the Golan, the nation's security will be imperiled, as Rabin himself had said two years ago. *lit*

Justice criticizes GSS

Supreme Court Justice Theodore Orr yesterday criticized the State Attorney's Office for presenting in court an edited version of a tape recording of a suspect's confession. The trial involved four youths accused in the grenade attack on the Butchers' Market in the Old City of Jerusalem in November 1992. One man was killed and seven wounded in the attack.

Orr discovered during the trial that the recording was cut off, and was a copy made from the original, with several parts of the youth's confession missing. Orr took the GSS to task for presenting "evidence which is purportedly the original and complete, when this is not the case." *lit*

Fatah selling arms to Hizbullah

Several senior Fatah officials in Lebanon have been selling weapons to Hizbullah as a means of financing their daily expenses because of the PLO's financial crisis, the newspaper *Al-Watan Al-Arabi* reported yesterday. *lit*

Israel-PLO economic talks stuck on trade

PARIS (Reuters) — Talks between Israel and the PLO on economic relations were stuck yesterday on the issue of imports and customs duties, delegates said.

They said the prospect of concluding an overall agreement this week, raised last week by Finance Minister Abraham Shohat and PLO economics chief Abu Ala (Ahmed Korei), now appeared remote.

Delegates said other outstanding issues, including the important question of Palestinian laborers working in Israel, had been put on

hold until the trade issue was solved.

Israel has repeatedly said it wants open economic markets with the Palestinian areas, which implies that all but a special list of imported goods vital for development would be subject to Israeli-level tariffs, which are among the world's highest.

The Palestinians have argued both that they need lower tariffs for some consumer goods to give residents of the territories tangible benefits from self-rule, and that they want to be able to import goods freely from

Arab states that have no economic relations with Israel.

"The philosophy of open markets is more difficult and complicated than it appeared before," an Israeli official said.

He said the trade issue was "at a standstill" but expressed hope that the two sides would lay the basis for narrowing their differences in further talks before ending this week's round.

Shohat, who had been due to leave this morning, was prepared to stay in Paris longer to keep the talks on track, he said.

Relations with Pentagon are 'best in a decade'

ALON PINKAS

RELATIONS with the Pentagon, as well as with the entire Clinton administration, are the best they have been for a decade, senior defense sources said yesterday.

"Our contacts with the Pentagon on Lebanon, the peace process, weapons procurement, information exchanges, the purchase of the advanced F-15s, and the Arrow project demonstrate in unequivocal terms the level of cooperation that exists, and the nurturing environment in which relations are conducted," one senior Defense Ministry official said.

He said a report citing a cable reportedly criticized the administration's foreign policy sent by Foreign Ministry deputy director-general Eytan Bentzur to the embassy in Washington, was "a dis-

torted version, leaked totally out of context by someone who apparently does not appreciate US involvement in the peace process."

Bentzur, who heads the North America division at the Foreign Ministry, was quoted as writing that "the appointment of Defense Secretary William Perry was a second-class appointment."

The Foreign Ministry's Office yesterday dissociated itself from the cable.

In fact, Bentzur never used the term "second-class," but wrote, in a response cable sent to embassy spokeswoman Ruth Yaron, that "Perry's appointment was a second round of appointments, after the failed nomination of Bobby

Inman which followed the resignation of Les Aspin."

Furthermore, in the cable, which was obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*, Bentzur specifically describes Perry's appointment as one "which cultivates political thought and creates a healthy debate in the administration."

Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich clarified the issue with the State Department and the Pentagon.

US officials in Tel Aviv said that it is clear that this is a "falsehood leaked with malice intended."

Former secretary of state Alexander Haig, visiting Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center for Strategic Studies yesterday, said that Perry "is the best thing that has happened to the Pentagon in a long time."

Coalition defeats bill conditioning talks with PLO on formal amendment of its covenant

EVELYN GORDON

THE coalition yesterday defeated a bill which would condition further negotiations with the PLO on a formal amendment of the PLO covenant, by a vote of 49 to 41.

Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud), who sponsored the bill, noted in his explanation that even Labor Party leaders had initially considered a change in the PLO covenant to be crucial.

"Israel had explicit conditions for recognizing the PLO," Hanegbi quoted Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as saying in his recently published book, "of which the main one was the annulment of those articles in the PLO covenant that explicitly or implicitly call for the destruction of Israel. The covenant contains 33 articles, of which 28 in effect call for Israel's destruction."

Hanegbi also quoted Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, when he presented the Oslo accords to the Knesset in September, as saying that the decision to recognize the PLO was dependent on promises

received from Yasser Arafat, "if which the principal one was to formally revoke those articles of the PLO covenant that contradict Israel's right to exist."

By failing to insist that the PLO keep this promise, Hanegbi said, the government was sending a clear signal to the Palestinians that other Israeli demands could also be safely ignored.

Justice Minister David Liba'i, responding for the government, blasted the bill for attempting to undermine an agreement which the Knesset itself had approved.

"We need to know whether the Knesset has had its say regarding the agreement... or whether it is going to vote again on the issue

every Monday and Thursday," he said.

But in any case, he added, it is not in Israel's interest to condition the negotiations on a formal amendment of the covenant, since obtaining a peace agreement "is not a concession or the service of a foreign interest; it is of vital importance to us."

"Should I tell [the PLO] 'no' because of a formality?" he asked. "Is the fact that the other side also has problems, also has an opposition, also needs more time a reason not to continue the negotiations? [Arafat] passed [the changes to the covenant] in one forum; he passed them in a second forum; he needs a little time to pass them in the third forum."

Hizbullah attack sparks artillery duel in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Hizbullah gunmen attacked South Lebanese Army soldiers in south Lebanon yesterday, sparking mortar and artillery duels in which three Lebanese civilians were killed and four wounded, security sources said.

Hizbullah said its gunmen blasted an SLA outpost with rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire.

Security sources said there were no casualties in the early evening attack on the SLA outpost in Sheemariyeh, on the edge of the security zone, said the sources.

Shortly afterward, a roadside bomb exploded in the same area as an SLA patrol drove by, injuring a militiaman, said the sources.

IDF and SLA artillery gunners opened up from the enclave on suspected Hizbullah hideouts near a cluster of Shi'ite-populated villages facing the central sector, said the sources.

They said at least 25 155mm. howitzer shells crashed within an hour into areas where Hizbullah gunmen operate.

Earlier yesterday, US Ambassador Mark Haskin met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bweiz in Beirut and said calm in south Lebanon was essential for the resumption of the peace process.

"We hope that there can be restraint on all sides," he told reporters.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, nine of hearts, seven of diamonds and nine of clubs.



Knesset Elections Law (Consolidate Version) 1969 Display of Knesset Elections Voters Rolls 1994/1995 Voters Register

In accordance with Sections 33 and 35 of the Knesset Elections Law (Consolidate Version) 1969, notice is given below of the days, times and places of display of Knesset elections voters rolls.

1. **Registration in the Knesset Elections Voters Register.** In accordance with Section 2 of the Law, only those listed in the voters register will be entitled to vote in Knesset elections. Similarly, only those registered will be able to vote in local government elections.

2. **Public Display of Voters Register.** To enable every voter to check whether he or some other person is registered in the voters register in proper fashion, Section 33 of the Law stipulates that lists be displayed every year at population registration bureaus, for inspection by the public.

3. **Display Period.** This year, lists will be displayed from April 28 until May 8, both dates inclusive, excluding religious days of rest.

4. **Submission of Complaints and Appeals.** Any person who considers himself disadvantaged by not being included in the register, or by being improperly registered may, in accordance with Section 40 of the Law, submit a request or appeal to the Minister of the Interior, through the population registration bureau nearest his home. Requests/appeals must be submitted not later than May 17, 1994, on the appropriate form, available at population registration bureaus. You will be asked to show your identity card, when submitting the request/appeal. Anyone who submits such a request/appeal and does not receive a reply by Sunday, June 10, 1994, or who receives a reply he considers inadequate is entitled to appeal to a court by June 20, 1994. Such an appeal is not subject to a court fee; it should be submitted on the appropriate form, available at magistrates and district courts.

5. **Display of Supplementary Rolls of Voters without Israel Citizenship, for Local Government Elections.** In accordance with Section 16 (a) of the Local Government Authorities (Voters) Law 1965, an additional voters list - residents who are not citizens of Israel - will be displayed with the Knesset voters roll. The instructions regarding requests/appeals in Para. 4 above apply equally to these supplementary rolls.

6. **Requests to be Transferred to a Voting Station Suitable for the Disabled.** Any person who, because of bodily infirmity, is not able to vote at the voting station for which he is registered, may apply to the Minister of the Interior, to have his name transferred to the voters rolls for a voting station near his place of residence, where there are facilities for disabled voters.

The location of these voting stations will be displayed on the notice board of every local authority.

The appropriate application form is available at the offices of local authorities, and population registration bureaus. It will also be sent to you by post, if you request this by calling 09-977249. The completed, signed request form should be sent directly to the address given on the form.

Such requests should arrive not later than May 17, 1994.

7. **Places and Times of Display:** At all Ministry of the Interior, area population registration bureaus (as listed below) voters registers for all the local government authorities in the area concerned will be displayed.

Hours of display: Throughout the period stated in Para. 3 above, the rolls will be displayed during the regular working hours of the office concerned.

Population Registration Bureaus

| Town | Address | Town | Address |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Jerusalem | 1 Shlomzion Hamalka | Netanya | 4 Ramez |
| Eilat | Sofel Boneh House, cor. Sd. Hatemarim | Acre | Mercaz Hashvakim (opp. the firestation) |
| Ashkelon | Area Centre (Municipality Building) | Afula | 2 Harav Levin |
| Beersheba | 7 Rambam, cor. Trumpeldor | Petah Tikva | 40 Bar Kachba |
| Herzliya | 2 Hadar | Safed | Government Building, Rehov Yerushalayim |
| Hadera | 50 Herzi | Rehovot | 24 Binyamin |
| Holon | 11 Jabotinsky, cor. Hahagana | Ramla | 74 Herzi |
| Haifa | 11 Hassan Shukri | Ramat Gan | 2 Bialik |
| Tiberias | 23 Zakai Alhadi | Tel Aviv | Shalom Mayer Tower (14th floor) |
| Upper Nazareth | Government Building | | 9 Ahad Ha'am |
| | | | 9 Habashan (north) |

Sincere condolences to
Yochie and Solly Davidowitz
on the passing of
CHAVA HUTNIK
S.A.A. Staff
Israel

Tombstone unveiling
BENNY (Benjamin) DAVIDSON
of England.
Sunday, April 24, 1994, at Har Hamenuhot at 11 p.m.
Meeting at the gate. Tel. 02-734331.

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of
HANOCH BAR-ZEMER
The funeral will take place today, Thursday, April 21,
at Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Har Tuv Junction,
leaving from Rehov Shargar, Romema,
Jerusalem, at 11:00 a.m.
Wife: Devorah
Sons: Uri and Yuval
Daughters: Judith, Shulamit Bar-Zemer-Magen
Grandchildren: Tal, Noam, Yasmin, Tamar, Miriam,
Yael, Aliza and Yehuda Gutman

مكتبة النهر

Rabin presents citizenship to first Righteous Gentile from Sarajevo

BATSHEVA TSUR

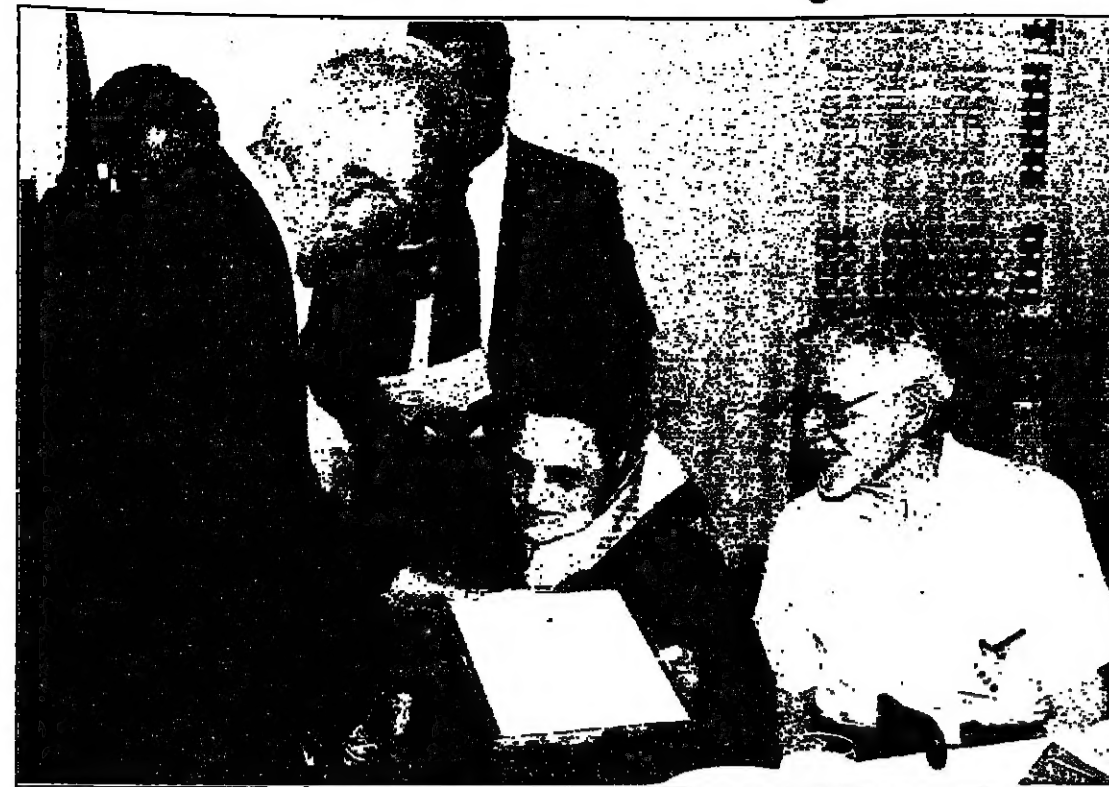
"WORDS cannot adequately convey the esteem with which the Jewish people hold you for your acts of bravery during the Holocaust," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday told Zajneba Hardaga-Susic, a Moslem Righteous Gentile from Sarajevo.

"This is your home and you have the full rights of an Israeli," he added at a ceremony in his office, where he granted Hardaga-Susic citizenship. "You were the first Yugoslavian Moslem to get the title of Righteous Gentile, but there are also three others."

Thanking the government for bringing her here with her family, Hardaga-Susic said: "I want to ask you Mr. Prime Minister, PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and whomever can help, to make sure that what happened in Sarajevo does not happen here. We don't want to see any more cemeteries. For 500 years, Jews and Moslems lived side by side in former Yugoslavia. People must talk and not shoot."

Looking at her daughter Aida, her son-in-law Bronimar, and granddaughter Stella, who came here two months ago to live with her, Hardaga-Susic promised: "My family will repay your kindness."

"You are our sister, our land is your land and our home is your home," Absorption Minister Yair



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin presents a certificate of citizenship to Zajneba Hardaga-Susic, a Moslem Righteous Gentile brought here from Sarajevo. On the right is Reuven Dafni, who translated Rabin's words.

Tsaban said. He said the family has settled down in their new home at the Mevasseret Zion absorption center. "Stella already has friends at school," he said, as the 11-year-old, who has learned some Hebrew, nodded.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Kabilio-Grinberg family, who were saved by the Hardagas and who had contacted them when war broke out in Sarajevo. Tova Grinberg of Jerusalem brought other members of the

Hardaga family to a safe haven here. Reuven Dafni of Yad Vashem, who parachuted behind enemy lines in Yugoslavia to save Jews in World War II, translated the proceedings for the family.

Turkey may loan Shiloah carving for capital's birthday

ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

THE most famous inscription ever found in Jerusalem - a rock carving that confirmed the biblical account of the hewing of the Siloam water tunnel in the eighth century BCE - may return to Jerusalem in two years on temporary loan.

The Israel Antiquities Authority has requested Turkish archaeological officials to loan the inscription from the Istanbul Archaeological Museum as part of an exhibition planned in 1996 to mark the 3,000th anniversary of David's establishment of his capital in Jerusalem.

The inscription has been in Istanbul since shortly after it was found in 1880, when Jerusalem was part of the Ottoman Empire. Also being sought from Istanbul is a striking mosaic of Orpheus found in the remains of a Byzantine church outside Damascus Gate a century ago.

According to an Antiquities Authority spokeswoman, the Turkish officials said the request will be considered after it is made at the political level. The Israeli Foreign Ministry has agreed to pass on the request to Ankara, said the spokeswoman.

The Bible describes how King Hezekiah prepared Jerusalem for siege after the Assyrian ruler Sennacherib, began marching westwards. The city's main water source, the Gihon spring, lay just outside Jerusalem's walls. As described in II Kings (20:20) Hezekiah "made a pool and a conduit and brought water into the city." The king, according to II Chronicles (32:30), "also stopped the upper watercourse of Gihon and brought it straight down to the west side of the city of David."

By driving a 600-meter tunnel under the ridge on which David's City was located and sealing off outside access to the Gihon spring, Hezekiah denied the besiegers access to the water which now flowed to a pool that was enclosed by extending the city wall to the southeast.

Striking confirmation of the biblical account came 114 years ago, when a Hebrew inscription was found on the wall of the tunnel. Part was missing but enough remained to provide a dramatic picture of two teams of miners, starting from opposite ends, cutting their way towards each other.

The Antiquities Authority will also seek to borrow from the Louvre the decorated sarcophagus containing the remains of the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, the first Roman emperor to adopt Christianity.

Olmert okays plans for new Jerusalem central bus station

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM'S central bus station, today overcrowded and dilapidated, will soon undergo a \$40 million face-lift. City Hall announced yesterday.

Mayor Ehud Olmert has given the go-ahead for the plan, which has already received the approval of the other government and planning bodies required before construction can begin, the city spokesman said in a statement.

The new station is being built with the transportation needs of the next century in mind, the spokesman said, "and aims at encouraging the use of public transportation."

The new station will include some 21,000 sq. m. of commercial space, and a new waiting area is to be built.

for a temporary location for the station while the renovation is in progress, the spokesman said.

The architect Ze'ev Schoenberg and other planners gave the city assurances that special measures would be taken to control air and noise pollution at the new station.

The spokesman said construction, funded by Egged and Bank Hapoalim, would begin next year.

Normal radioactivity levels near nuclear research centers

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THE Little Crater and the area around the nuclear research center near Dimona are clean of any excess radioactivity, according to an Environment Ministry check of the two regions.

The test showed that naturally radioactive elements like uranium, thorium, and potassium are present in the region in amounts characteristic of the local topography.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid ordered the testing of radioactivity levels in the ground, vegetation, and water around the nuclear research center in Dimona and the center in Nahal Sorek.

The tests indicated that low concentrations of two radioactive isotopes found in the ground near the Dimona site were caused by the radioactive cloud created by the explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in April 1986.

Tests at the Nahal Sorek site turned up similar findings, but no evidence of any radioactivity which could be attributed to the center.

Ministry spokeswoman Sari Zimmerman said the tests showed that the findings at the two sites showed reflected the natural surroundings, and were not affected by the centers' activities.

Nurse sues hospital, Health Ministry after contracting hepatitis from used needle

RAINE MARCUS

A 50-YEAR-OLD nurse, who is accusing the Health Ministry and Ashdod's Barzilai Hospital of gross negligence, is suing for over a million shekels after contracting a dangerous liver disease from a used syringe.

Lily Rumpel filed a law suit in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday blaming the Health Ministry and her employers for failing to provide adequate safety precautions or guidance.

The law suit states that since contracting the sometimes fatal hepatitis B and C disease, she has been unable to work or do anything requiring physical effort, suffers from stomach, joint and back pains, nausea and general weakness.

While at work around four years ago, Rumpel reached for a piece of cotton wool which was on a tray with used hypodermic needles and other paraphernalia.

The needles had been lying exposed in an open container, the suit read. One needle pricked her finger and Rumpel suffered light bleeding.

Three months later she began to suffer from headaches, stomach pains, exhaustion and nausea. Medical examinations revealed she had been infected with the B and C strains of hepatitis. Previously, Rumpel had been healthy.

Rumpel accused her employers of not warning her of the dangers of contact with used needles, and said nurses were not given gloves or protective clothing. Staff were not informed of safe methods to dispose of used syringes and had not been vaccinated against infectious diseases. Used hypodermic needles were left in open containers, read the law suit.

The Health Ministry and Barzilai Hospital have not yet responded to the suit.

Woman takes Transport Ministry to court, gets drivers license back

RAINE MARCUS

A JUDGE returned a woman's driving license after it had been confiscated by Transport Ministry officials, who had received a letter saying she was mentally disturbed.

A few months ago, the woman was summoned to the North Tel Aviv branch of the Licensing Bureau. She was told there were doubts as to the state of her mental health, and was asked if she had ever been hospitalized in a mental hospital. Astounded at the question, the woman was told that a man had sent a letter informing authorities she was disturbed and unfit to drive.

The branch manager refused to show the woman the letter or disclose the sender's name, but asked her to sign a form waiving her rights to medical confidentiality. When the woman refused, he confiscated her driver's license, and issued her a four-day temporary one, telling her she should consider signing the form if she wanted her license back.

The woman turned to Association for Civil Rights in Israel for help. ACRI went to Tel Aviv District Court, arguing that the Transport Ministry had no right to confiscate her license on the basis of a letter. The ministry's refusal to disclose its source of information or examine its authenticity was a violation of the woman's civil rights, ACRI said.

The ministry did not have sufficient evidence to ask the woman to waive her right to medical confidentiality, argued ACRI lawyer Dan Yakir, and had no right to ask her to sign such a form.

Yakir also blasted a Transport Ministry lawyer's letter which said the woman had been banned from driving because she refused a medical examination.

"My client was not asked to undergo such an examination," said Yakir.

Judge Miriam Porat ordered the ministry to give the woman back her license and awarded her NIS 1,000 in court costs.

Premature baby undergoes balloon therapy

JUDY SIEGEL

A 2.3-KILO baby born prematurely with a nearly closed valve between his heart and lungs has become the smallest in Israel - and one of the smallest in the world - to undergo successful balloon therapy. The baby is now at home, fully recovered, and will need no further treatment.

The boy, a fraternal twin, was born 10 days ago at Jerusalem's Misgav Ladach Hospital, and was blue at birth. Pediatricians quickly diagnosed a congenital heart defect that prevented more than a tiny stream of blood from flowing through his heart. He was rushed to Hadassah University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

LAGBAOMER at HYPERCOL

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
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| Turkish kebab | 500g, "Tivon-Veal" | 8.50 | 7.50 |
| Lamb steak for grilling | 1 kg, "Tivon-Veal" | 43.80 | 35.- |
| Veal Shwarma | 700g, "Tohelet" | 27.60 | 27.60 |
| "Viner" franks | 500g, "Tiv Tirat Zvi" | 12.70 | 8.70 |

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Rodney King awarded \$3.8m. in damages

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - A jury has awarded more than \$3.8 million in damages to Rodney King, the black motorist whose videotaped beating at the hands of white police officers ultimately led to the worst US riots this century.

The award was significantly less than the \$15 million in compensatory damages King's lawyers had demanded from the city of Los Angeles during the civil trial but well above the \$800,000 the city said was a fair sum.

The multiracial jury was ordered to return to federal court today for the second phase of the trial - proceedings to determine punitive damages to be paid by the four officers involved in the beating, then-police chief Daryl Gates and others.

The city's attorneys, who had tried to focus the month-long civil trial on King's troubled past, hailed the verdict as a victory.

They had held firm against King's original demand for \$54 million - \$1 million for each baton blow - as well as his final offer to settle for \$7.5 million before going to trial. The city council's counter-offer was for \$1.25 million.

"It's a whole lot less than they asked for," said Assistant City Attorney Don Vincent.

King's lawyer, Milton Grimes, who contended the attack was racially motivated and caused his client permanent brain damage, expressed disappointment over the award but declared: "This case is not over yet."

He said King, 29, who was absent from the courtroom, was "not ecstatic, not depressed. He was content."

The civil trial marked the third time in two years that a jury has grappled with the racially charged case that began on March 3, 1991, when King was beaten by police after leading them on a high-speed chase.

When the four officers were acquitted on state charges in April 1992, Los Angeles exploded in violence, the flashpoint of what would become the nation's worst riots this century. The toll: 54 dead and nearly \$1 billion in damage.

In a federal trial last year, two of the officers, Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell, were convicted of violating King's civil rights and are now serving 2-1/2-year prison terms.

After the latest verdict was in, Mayor Richard Riordan said he "put this chapter behind us" and continue efforts to heal the city's wounds.

The first phase of the latest trial was to determine only compensatory damages for King's medical bills, lost income, pain and suffering.

Though the city admitted liability, defense attorneys pounded away at King's credibility, minimizing the extent of his injuries and pointing out inconsistencies in his testimony from the federal trial.

King, 29, gave the most graphic account yet of his beating, saying "I felt like I had been raped."

King's lawyers portrayed him as an involuntary civil rights symbol, forced forever to carry emotional and physical scars.



Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party supporters dip their hands into a bucket containing mud, a witch doctor's mixture, to smear on their body for protection against their enemies' bullets. (AP)

Inkatha hits the campaign trail to 'avert disaster'

News agencies
ULUNDI

INKATHA, the mainly Zulu political movement, has joined all-race elections to avert "disaster" in South Africa, party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said yesterday.

The 11th hour decision on Tuesday had lessened tensions in the KwaZulu homeland capital of Ulundi and could reduce political violence in the country, he said before his first campaign address.

Huddled with KwaZulu legislators plotting election strategy, Buthelezi said: "As you can see, people are in a jovial mood, tensions have been reduced. That could reduce the violence."

In a land where bad news is the norm, word that the Zulus will take part in the election gave the country a shot of euphoria.

"I'm over the moon," said Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. "It's wonderful, wonderful."

Inkatha is expected to finish a distant third to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and President F.W. de Klerk's National Party. But Inkatha's participation is extremely important because it should help ease the political violence and intimidation that threaten to undermine the vote.

"We are happy that he (Buthelezi) is taking part because it makes the election all-inclusive," Mandela said at a news conference outside the southern city of Port Elizabeth.

On Johannesburg's Radio 702, angst-ridden whites usually call in to air their apprehensions about the country's transition to black majority rule. After Tuesday's announcement, they were ecstatic.

"This is the best news we've had in years," gushed one woman caller. "Our country has hope again."

About 1,000 Zulu dancers sang and chanted on the homeland assembly's lawn as about 15,000 people converged on Ulundi to attend Buthelezi's first election rally.

"The decision was taken in the interests of the country. If it saves the country from disaster that it is all that concerns me," the Zulu leader said.

"There is not enough time...I cannot clone myself. Physically it is impossible to do it all in the next few days, the election is in God's hands."

He again urged the government to lift a March 31 state of emergency imposed on Kwa-

Zulu-Natal to suppress violence when Inkatha still opposed elections.

"I don't think people in Britain, Germany or America could agree to hold an election under such a state of emergency," he said.

He rejected speculation that Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini had forced him into the elections.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. I revere him as my king, he respects me as his uncle. He is not in the habit of pushing me," Buthelezi said.

He seemed unconcerned about a prospect of relinquishing power after elections the party's chief rival, the African National Congress is strongly tipped to win.

"I am not interested in any cabinet position. I would welcome being in opposition, because as you know I oppose the present constitution," he said.

Berlin paper pokes fun at Nazi 'hysteria'

BERLIN (Reuters) - An irreverent left-wing German newspaper poked fun at recent rows over Nazi anniversaries yesterday by claiming that the remains of Hitler's dog Blondie had finally been found.

Berlin's *Tageszeitung*, in a spoof piece to mark the 105th anniversary of Hitler's birth, said construction workers found the bones of the Fuehrer's faithful German shepherd while digging near the spot where Hitler committed suicide in 1945.

"A sensational discovery of historically sensitive material has been made," the paper said.

"The intact skeleton of a German shepherd has been found - the remains of Adolf Hitler's companion Blondie."

Officials are certain it was Blondie, the paper said, because a

"golden swastika was still hanging from its neck."

Cultural page Barbara Haeusler said the paper decided to run the spoof after England's Football Association cancelled a soccer match against Germany scheduled yesterday in Berlin over fears it might be disrupted by right-wing extremists.

"There is a growing sensationalism in the media in regards to these Nazi dates that we felt we needed to respond to," Haeusler told Reuters. "People are getting hysterical about this. They are no longer being rational."

Apart from the cancelled football match, interest in the Nazi past has also been kept alive by occasional German media reports that Hitler's body had been uncovered somewhere.

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Researchers say diaries show Australian explorers ate wrong foods

LONDON (Reuters) - Australian explorers who died last century while crossing the continent brought about their own ends by eating foods that destroy vital body vitamins, researchers say.

They said an examination of the diaries left by Robert O'Hara Burke, William John Wills, John King and Charles Gray - the first Europeans to cross Australia south to north - showed they simply ate the wrong foods.

It was known the explorers died of beriberi, a deficiency of vitamin B1 or thiamine. B1 is vital for the

nervous system.

In an article in today's issue of the science journal *Nature*, John Earl, biochemist at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney, and former agriculture official Barry McCleary said no one had known why the men developed the illness.

They said they examined the preserved diaries left by the adventurers and found they had eaten foods that contain an enzyme that breaks down thiamine.

"Delayed by monsoons on their return journey and finding their ra-

tions depleted, the explorers began to live off the land," they wrote, adding that freshwater mussels were abundant in the inland creeks.

"The freshwater mussel...contains a thiaminase enzyme that breaks down thiamine."

Supplies got still lower and a relief party had deserted them, Earl and McCleary wrote. "They began to eat nardoo, a flour prepared from the sporocarps of the nardoo fern..."

Nardoo, when not prepared properly, also contains high levels of the enzyme.

Thousands urge new law for Berbers

ALGIERS (AP) - Tens of thousands of people demonstrated to demand that Berber, spoken by about 30 percent of the population, join Arabic as an official language.

The demonstrations in Algiers and several other towns came on the 14th anniversary of the arrests of Berber activists leading a movement to promote the Berber language and culture.

The rallies yesterday showed that

split between Arabs and Berbers in this North African country remains a factor in politics despite a two-year-old Islamic rebellion.

Three Berber political parties joined a cultural organization at the head of yesterday's peaceful rallies, which urged that Berber be taught in schools and be used officially with Arab.

One of the parties, the Front for Socialist Forces, took the second-

highest number of votes in parliamentary elections in 1992. Those elections were won by Islamic fundamentalists when they were cancelled and an army-backed regime seized power.

Arabic has been Algeria's official language since a Marxist independence movement sent French colonizers packing in 1962. But French remained an unofficial language of the workplace.

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US, Korea revive plan for joint maneuvers

SEOUL (AP) - The United States and South Korea, citing North Korea's failure to permit full inspections of its nuclear facilities, announced tentative plans yesterday to hold a major joint military exercise this fall.

North Korea considers the exercise a provocation and a central obstacle to settling a range of issues with Seoul and with Washington, including a long-running dispute over whether North Korea is developing nuclear weapons.

Also yesterday, a senior US official said the United States was interested in resuming direct, but lower-level, talks with North Korea to possibly set the stage for a third round of high-level talks on nuclear and other issues.

The official, who was in Seoul with US Defense Secretary William Perry and spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity, said the US administration would set no conditions for resuming the lower-level talks, and that they could happen soon. He declined to say whether the North Koreans had expressed an interest in talks.

The military exercise, dubbed "Team Spirit," had been suspended earlier this year after North Korea said it would permit International Atomic Energy Agency inspections of its declared nuclear facilities. But the March inspection was curtailed by North Korea, prompting calls for possible UN economic sanctions against North Korea and a reconsideration of holding military exercises.

Tensions heightened still further when a North Korean official recently warned that his country would turn Seoul into a "sea of fire" if the north was pressed too hard on the nuclear issue.

South Korean officials have sought to ease the tensions by stressing their confidence that a peaceful solution to the nuclear standoff can be achieved.

A visit by American reporters yesterday to the heavily guarded Demilitarized Zone that has separated north and south since the end of the Korean War in 1953 showed no signs of imminent conflict or worried soldiers. About the only thing flying were magpies, and the only noise was an eerie female singing voice being broadcast across the border on North Korean loudspeakers.

Perry discussed military exercises yesterday with South Korean Defense Minister Rhee Byoung-tae and Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo.

Finns capture crossbow killer

HELSINKI (Reuters) - A Finnish army deserter who returned to his home town and killed three police with a rifle and crossbow was captured early yesterday after a hunt involving armored personnel carriers and a helicopter.

"He has been arrested and he is in a police jail," Taisto Pustelli, a police officer in the southeastern town of Kotka, told Reuters.

The 22-year-old conscript, apparently tired from the long chase, threw away his rifle and surrendered after police fired warning shots. The Finnish news agency STT reported. Nobody was hurt.

"A police patrol came to the scene after a tip-off from the public. After warning shots fired by the police, (the man) gave up his weapon and surrendered," police inspector Arto Makela told Finnish radio.

The soldier deserted from a garrison in the nearby town of Hamina on Sunday evening, taking a rifle with him. Local media said he had been given the key to a weapons locker as he was the first to return after weekend leave.

The conscript returned to his home town of Kotka and went on a shooting spree which terrorized the neighborhood. Television showed homes peppered with bullet holes.

The soldier killed a couple in their early fifties with a crossbow in his home street early on Tuesday and later that morning shot a man, local media reported.

He holed up in a forested area for seven hours before managing to slip through a police cordon on Tuesday evening. An army helicopter equipped with an infra-red camera and four armored personnel carriers took part in the search.

A local resident said the man had walked down the street early on Tuesday dressed in military camouflage uniform and a ski mask. He shot a man who appeared at his front door.

Jorma Seppala told Finnish radio his neighbor was shot "in cold blood at close range."

US, Korea revive plan for joint maneuvers

SEOUL (AP) - The United States and South Korea, citing the threat of North Korea's nuclear program, announced today plans to revive a joint military exercise that was suspended last year.

North Korea considers the exercise a provocation and a prelude to settling a range of issues with Seoul and with Washington, including a long-running dispute over whether North Korea is developing nuclear weapons.

Also yesterday, a senior US official said the United States is interested in resuming direct talks with North Korea to possibly set the stage for third round of high-level talks on nuclear and other issues.

The official, who was in Seoul with US Defense Secretary William Perry, spoke to reporters on the condition of anonymity.

The US administration would like to see the exercise resume on a lower level, and that the exercise would be a prelude to a series of talks, and that the exercise would be a prelude to a series of talks, and that the exercise would be a prelude to a series of talks.

Muhammad: I'm sick of hearing of the Holocaust

HILLEL KUTTNER
and news agencies

WASHINGTON - Former Nation of Islam official Khalid Muhammad told a cheering audience at Howard University that he is fed up with hearing survivors' lecture about the Nazi Holocaust.

"You make me sick - always got some old crinkly, wrinkled cracker that you bring up, saying this is one of the Holocaust victims," God damn it! I'm looking at a whole audience of Holocaust victims," Muhammad told the overwhelmingly black crowd of 2,000 people.

"The Holocaust lasted 10 years; ours lasted 500. How can you compare, buddy?" he boomed. "You are so arrogant."

The crowd repeatedly cheered as the controversial speaker denounced Jews as "honkies" and said God had spoken to Colin Ferguson, the Jamaican charged with killing six people on a New York commuter train.

His university appearance came at the conclusion of a night-long event titled *Documenting the Black Holocaust*, which was sponsored by a student group called Unity Nation. An earlier speaker on the program was Professor Tony Martin of Wellesley College, who wrote *The Jewish Onslaught*.

In a statement issued prior to the event, university president Franklin G. Jenifer expressed

"our deepest concern" that the group provided a platform for those "associated with blatantly antisemitic rhetoric," although he defended students' free speech rights.

Muhammad told his cheering audience: "I am going to be like a pit bull. That is the way I am going to be against the Jews. I am going to bite the tail of the honkies."

In February, Muhammad was stripped of his position in the Nation of Islam by its fiery leader Louis Farrakhan, who nonetheless said he agreed with the "truths" of Muhammad's assertions that Jews helped perpetrate the slave trade.

Referring to the black New Yorker who shot six people, all white, on a commuter train in December, Muhammad shouted to the crowd: "I love Colin Ferguson, who killed all those white folks on the Long Island train."

"God sent tornadoes, is that right? God sent hurricanes, is that right? God sent earthquakes, is that right? God sent Colin Ferguson!"

God spoke to Colin Ferguson and said, "Catch the train, Colin, catch the train."

Outside, New York Rabbi Avi Weiss called Muhammad a racist and an antisemite "of the worst order."

Howard is one of the nation's oldest black colleges.



A French UN soldier checks his ammunition at Sarajevo airport while awaiting clearance from Serb authorities to head to the besieged Bosnian town of Gorazde. (AP)

Ten killed as Serbs shell Gorazde hospital

SARAJEVO (AP) - Aid workers in Gorazde pleaded for their lives yesterday as Bosnian Serbs relentlessly shelled the hospital and other buildings in the Muslim enclave. One doctor called it a slaughter.

Three rockets hit the town's already damaged hospital, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 15, UN workers said in a message to UN offices in Geneva. At least 12 people died when nearby apartment buildings were shelled, later reports said.

At some points yesterday morning, Serb artillery flung shells into the town packed with Muslim refugees at the rate of one a minute.

The few aid workers still in Gorazde spoke of despair after a three-week Serb offensive that

has killed at least 367 people and wounded more than 1,000.

"This is hell, horror and terror," the hospital's director, Dr. Alija Begic, said in a ham-radio transmission. "This is not a war anymore. This is slaughter, massacre."

He said Serb tanks were only about 100 yards away and firing directly into the hospital.

"Please do something that we stay alive. We cannot stand this anymore," sobbed another doctor, Aldijana Rebic.

In Brussels, NATO ambassadors backed a UN request for air strikes to protect UN-designated "safe areas" like Gorazde, but the alliance delayed a final decision pending military advice on options for using air power.

The allies agreed "we have got to find a way to respond positively" to the request. Britain's ambassador, Sir John Weston, said UN peacekeepers, however, say it is too late for air strikes around Gorazde because Serb troops are too close and bombing would endanger the 50,000 civilians estimated to be huddled inside the town limits.

"The town is at their mercy," the UN commander, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, said of the besieging Serbs yesterday. "There is nothing we can do to sustain the fences of Gorazde."

Aid workers said the heavy artillery and sniper fire inflicted on the town Tuesday was more intense than any suffered in Sarajevo during its siege by Serb troops. The roof of the hospital was blown off. The town's water plant was hit, so there is no drinking water. At least 43 people were killed and 112 wounded.

The Red Cross said it was desperately trying to send in a convoy of emergency food and medicines. "In Gorazde hospital they are operating without anesthetics, they have run out of analgesics and bandages," said spokeswoman Vanya Kivley.

UN officials had been hopeful after a new cease-fire agreement was signed by a Serb leader late Tuesday - but it appeared to be only the latest in a string of broken promises.

Even as Serb guns again pounded the town, the Serbs' political leader, Radovan Karadzic, issued a statement saying: "The Serbian side unilaterally proclaims peace in Gorazde. With this, the Gorazde crisis comes to an end."

Nixon's condition worsens

NEW YORK (AP) - Former President Nixon remained in critical condition yesterday with swelling of the brain, a complication from the stroke that left him partially paralyzed and unable to speak.

"One has to say his prognosis is guarded," Dr. Fred Plum, chief of neurology at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, said late Tuesday. He said the brain swelling was the most serious threat. "These are critical hours."

For the first time since Nixon was stricken Monday evening, doctors described his stroke as "major."

The 81-year-old Nixon was returned to intensive care late Tuesday, two hours after leaving the unit for a private room. Earlier in the day, doctors had said he was out of grave danger, alert and in good spirits but unable to speak.

"We thought Mr. Nixon was doing quite well," Plum said. But after he was moved to the private room, "it was apparent he'd taken a turn for the worse."

He has received numerous get-well messages, including a telegram from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"I hope you recover and return to the rough and tumble of political life," wrote Yeltsin, who was angered last month when Nixon met with Yeltsin's opponents during his trip to Russia.

Strokes - damage to part of the brain, caused by insufficient blood supply - are the nation's third-leading cause of death. They strike about 500,000 people annually, killing one-third.

Brain swelling is common in stroke victims and is considered serious, Plum said.

Plum said Nixon's doctors had been treating him for several years for an irregular heartbeat, which can make a person susceptible to blood clots. The clots are believed to have caused the stroke.

Nixon was stricken at his home in New Jersey. The *New York Times* reported yesterday that he had spent the day working on a speech for Republican fund-raisers. On Tuesday, page proofs for Nixon's latest book, *Beyond Peace*, arrived at his office, the *Times* reported.

Nixon was elected the 37th president in 1968, after nearly a quarter-century as a Republican officeholder - congressman, senator, and vice president under Dwight Eisenhower.

Six years later, under the cloud of the Watergate scandal, he became the first president to resign.

MSF reports massacres in Rwanda border town

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said yesterday there had been massacres around the Rwandan border town of Butare where thousands of people were trying to cross into Burundi.

"At the road barricades erected by the militias, people trying to escape were killed on the spot. Dozens of bodies were seen by our teams at these barricades," MSF said in a statement from Brussels.

"Dozens of people, stabbed, but also with bullet and grenade wounds, have arrived in the last few hours at the hospital in the centre of the town (Butare) where an MSF team is operating," the statement said.

MSF said eye-witnesses had told medical staff that people trying to flee ethnic bloodshed in Rwanda had been systematically killed.

Despite the killings, MSF said hundreds of wounded had managed to reach the border between Rwanda and Burundi.

The aid group said it had set up an emergency medical centre at Cayanza in northern Burundi to treat the wounded.

"Since last night, 24 seriously wounded people have been treated (in Burundi). The search for wounded people in the hills is continuing today," MSF said.

Rwanda has been plunged into a vicious tribal war between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi tribes since Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed when a rocket hit his plane on April 6.

Tens of thousands of Rwandans are believed to have died in the bloodshed and up to two million have been driven from their homes or camps.

Belgian peacekeepers meanwhile returned home yesterday from the failed UN mission in Rwanda seen by many as doomed from the start because of an inflexible mandate from the United Nations. Ten Belgian soldiers were tortured and killed at the start of the fighting.

Defense Minister Leo Delcroix joined many of his troops in criticizing the UN mandate in Rwanda.

"Delcroix has for many months pleaded for a more flexible mandate for the local UN commanders, who are the best placed to take rapid decisions and implement them," a defence ministry statement said.

"This is necessary to assure the security of our men and the efficiency of missions," it added.

The final batch of 300 Belgian peacekeepers was airlifted to neighbouring Tanzania on Tuesday night and then on to Kenya where they boarded flights for home.

Belgian troops returning this week spoke of their disgust for the UN mission, and some soldiers publicly burned their trademark UN blue berets while others ripped them up into shreds in front of television cameras.

"We lost some dignity there and all because the big guns, the fools in the armchairs in New York, did not allow us to intervene," one peacekeeper told Belgian journalists.

Soldiers returning to Melsbroek military airport outside Brussels yesterday said emotions had run high among Belgian troops after the murder of 10 of their colleagues.

"Everyone is very, very sad. There will be no parties now that we have returned to Belgium," one told RTBF radio.

The 10 Belgian peacekeepers were tortured and killed while trying in vain to defend the prime minister, who was hunted down after Habyarimana's assassination.

US Senate rejects Tailhook punishment

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US Senate has rejected an effort by all seven women senators to punish the Navy's top admiral for the women-groping 1991 Tailhook sex scandal.

They urged the Senate to oppose Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Frank Kelso's retirement as a four-star admiral for what they called his failure of leadership in the scandal.

But the Senate approved Kelso's four-star retirement 54-43, his supporters saying he should not be made a scapegoat for wrongdoing not his fault.

A Pentagon report said 83 women including 15 Navy officers were assaulted in a hallway gauntlet during Navy pilots' 1991 Tailhook convention at a Las Vegas hotel.

"Someone in the military must pay a tangible, quantifiable price for Tailhook and no one in the military has except those women who were sexually assaulted," Senator Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat said.

President Clinton proposed Kelso's retirement as a full admiral and Defense Secretary William Perry and other top defense officials urged the Senate to approve it, saying Kelso committed no wrongdoing in the scandal.

"I believe that the evidence is not sufficiently compelling that he

knew about it (the Tailhook wrongdoing)," Clinton said in a television interview yesterday.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, said Kelso should not be made a scapegoat out of a "frustration to find someone to punish."

"Since nobody else has been convicted, the target is Kelso," Nunn said. "Is that justice? Is that fairness?"

The five women Democrats are Senators Mikulski, Boxer, Dianne Feinstein of California, Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois and Patty Murray of Washington.

The Senate's two Republican women senators are Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas and Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas.

Most of the debate was calm but Senator Ted Stevens, an Alaska Republican, sparked an angry exchange when he told one of the women she did not understand that Clinton, not Kelso, asked for the four-star retirement.

"We the women in the Senate are not stupid. We know the rules," Mikulski told him.

Senator Carol Moseley Braun told Stevens: "Not only do I know the facts pertaining to this issue but it defines chauvinism, if you'll look that up in the dictionary, to suggest that I don't."

Touvier trial forces France to reconsider heroic wartime myths

WILLIAM DROZDIAK
PARIS

THE five-week trial of Paul Touvier captivated much of France, which has been forced in recent years to reexamine the national myth of heroic resistance.

Confronted by historical evidence, the nation has to admit that collaboration with the Nazi occupation was much more commonplace than previously reported.

The verdict, reached by a nine-member jury after nearly six hours of deliberation in a Versailles courtroom, affirmed that Touvier was carrying out the genocidal policies of the Nazi regime when he executed seven Jews in a Lyon suburb 50 years ago in retaliation for the assassination of a Vichy minister by the French resistance.

As the first Frenchman to stand trial for crimes against humanity, Touvier offered perhaps the most vivid illustration of how French citizens actively carried out antisemitic purges and other Nazi policies, in some instances even without prompting from German occupation forces.

The Vichy regime rounded up at least 75,000 French Jews and deported them to Nazi-run death camps, where only 2,500 survived. But until the case of Touvier and other leading French collaborators gained notoriety, such facts were obscured by the nation's willful desire to believe in the myth that much of the population fought to undermine the four-year Nazi occupation.

Touvier's lawyer, Jacques Tremolet de Villers, sought to depict his client as a scapegoat who was being sacrificed to ease the country's stricken conscience. He also claimed that Touvier executed the seven Jews in order to protect 23 others whom the Germans wanted killed in reprisal for the resistance's

reasons.

Until the moment when the jury went into seclusion, Tremolet charged repeatedly that the immense publicity surrounding the case made it impossible to give Touvier a fair trial.

Touvier's lawyer cited remarks by President Francois Mitterrand, a leading member of the wartime resistance struggle who was eventually caught and imprisoned by the Nazis. Mitterrand's comment, published last week, stressed that there was little point in reopening old wounds by prosecuting old men so long after the crimes they were accused of.

The argument that France should put aside the bitter emotions of the war led former President Georges Pompidou to pardon Touvier for his crimes two decades ago. But since there is no statute of limitation for crimes against humanity, Touvier still remained a fugitive from justice for his role in the execution of the seven Jews.

Twice sentenced to death in absentia, he had escaped from a Paris police station in 1947 and led a life on the lam, finding shelter mainly among Catholic fundamentalists. He married and had two children during his 45 years in hiding, and successive governments seemed to make no serious effort to find him.

But after the trial and conviction in 1987 of Touvier's boss Klaus Barbie, the German Gestapo chief known as the "Butcher of Lyon," police investigators went after him. He was finally tracked down and arrested in 1989 at a monastery near Nice, where police discovered Nazi medals, swastikas and decorations from the German army among his possessions. (Washington Post)

Body search to move to second Gloucester house

GLOUCESTER (Reuters) - Police who have dug up 10 women's bodies in Britain's "House of Horror" murder case said yesterday preparations had begun to search another former home of suspected serial killer Frederick West.

A police spokesman said search operations were being set up at 25 Midland Road, a Victorian house in the western English city of Gloucester that West occupied in the early 1970s before moving a short distance to the now notorious 25 Cromwell Street.

"Equipment is being moved in preparation for the search at Midland Road. It is still at the planning stage and we have not yet said when the search will begin," the spokesman said.

British newspapers reported on Tuesday that police expect to find another five sets of female remains, equalling the 15 victims of Britain's worst known serial killer.

Theft at Sir Walter Scott's home

EDINBURGH (Reuters) - Valuable artefacts which once belonged to Napoleon, Bonnie Prince Charlie and George IV have been stolen from Abbotsford, the ancestral home of the poet and novelist Sir Walter Scott, police said yesterday.

A police spokesman said the house, in a remote part of the countryside several km from the nearest town of Galashiels, south of Edinburgh, had been broken into overnight.

Dame Jean Maxwell Scott, great-great-granddaughter of the poet and novelist who died in 1832, was at home when the thieves struck. She said she feared the items could have been "stolen to order" and may go abroad.

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The Golan gamble

ON hearing what Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset foreign affairs and defense committee on Tuesday, one can only wonder if he had overruled Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The defense establishment, believing that Israel's vulnerability to Syrian attack will increase immeasurably if the whole Golan is relinquished, clearly wants Israel to retain a substantial part of the heights.

But in his capacity as prime minister, Rabin knows that insisting on keeping even a tiny area on the Golan's periphery, which overlooks the Sea of Galilee, renders an agreement with Syria impossible. Hence his declaration that the army's notion of what Israel can safely forfeit is politically unfeasible.

That is why the government, particularly the Foreign Ministry, has been regularly leaking information about plans to withdraw from the Golan. Underlying such leaks is the assumption that Israel will agree to give up the Golan if only they get used to the idea.

To assuage fears about the safety of the move, particularly since the army seems to advise against it, proponents of a Golan withdrawal say that substitutes for the heights' strategic advantage can be found. Observation posts can be replaced by AWACS aircraft, satellites, and other sophisticated monitoring devices; Syria can be forced to demilitarize the Golan once it repossesses it; and international or American forces can guarantee the separation between Israeli and Syrian forces and act as a buffer. Rabin, aware of the difficulties of getting combat troops stationed in the area for any length of

time, reportedly prefers the presence of a token peacekeeping force which would trigger a political intervention if attacked.

What all withdrawal proposals have in common is that they assume Syria will continue to be a danger. Clearly, truly friendly countries have no need of the suggested precautions and safeguards. But proponents of withdrawal believe relinquishing the whole Golan is a risk worth taking. Peace and normalization of relations, they say, will render Syria friendlier and more trustworthy.

The fundamental fallacy in this assumption is that dictatorships determine their policies according to treaties they sign rather than the ambitions they harbor. Nothing in Syrian dictator Hafez Assad's conduct and pronouncements points to the kind of change which Egypt's Anwar Sadat underwent when he agreed to make peace with Israel.

Assad may have reached a "strategic decision" to conclude an agreement with Israel based on total Israeli withdrawal. (He has yet to say anything about a full-fledged peace treaty and normalization.) But he obviously still believes that Israel's presence in the region is illegitimate and ultimately reversible. A "comprehensive agreement," as he terms Syria's desired goal, is the most efficient way to get Israel back to the 1949 lines. But it is not tantamount to accepting Israel as a neighbor and respecting the integrity of its borders.

As long as there is a dictatorial regime in Damascus which nurtures dreams of "greater Syria" and considers all of Israel "occupied territories," withdrawal from the Golan is an unacceptable gamble.

Hollow warnings

PLO spokesmen claim that charges their organization's is in collusion with Hamas are nothing but nasty rumors. Yes, PLO representatives are talking with Hamas officials, they say. But this is done strictly to get the Islamic fanatics to moderate their ways and join the peace process.

Some Hamas officials, too, are sounding more moderate. One has actually mentioned the hitherto taboo word "peace." Sounding like a one of the Fatah negotiators, he suggested that the Palestinians could live in peace with Israel if it withdrew to the 1949 lines.

The government, to its credit, is not buying Hamas's sudden moderation. Following the third terrorist attack on bus passengers, the security forces rounded up 362 Hamas activists, including some who were expelled to Lebanon in December 1992. Clearly, the planning and coordination of the bus bombings were done by an organization, not individuals. To forestall further strikes, the security forces felt they had to throw the organization into disarray.

But now the government must define what constitutes cooperation with Hamas terrorism. Cabinet ministers from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Environment Minister Yossi Sarid have declared unequivocally that a "distribution of labor" arrangement between Fatah and Hamas, which would allow Hamas to kill Israelis while Fatah continues with negoti-

ations, would annul the Oslo agreement.

Yet there is no doubt that talks between the two organizations are taking place. In fact, there are reports that they are close to a comprehensive agreement. Nor is there any doubt that Fatah cadres are still participating in terrorist acts. The last bus attack in Jerusalem was committed by a Fatah youth, though Hamas took "credit" for the deed.

But perhaps the most telling fact is that the Fatah negotiators in Cairo are insisting that Israel release all Palestinian prisoners, including Hamas killers. There can be nothing more absurd than to claim to renounce terrorism while demanding the release of terrorists who belong to an organization which opposes the talks and openly embraces terrorism. In fact, for the Cairo negotiators to demand the release of members of the PFLP and DFLP factions of the PLO - who also oppose the talks and support the "armed struggle" - is just as incongruous. One cannot be against terrorism and for the release of terrorists at the same time.

Inconsistency on this issue will only harm the government's credibility. If Yasser Arafat concludes that threats to annul the agreement by the prime minister are meaningless, that warnings to that effect are just hollow pronouncements delivered for domestic consumption, it is doubtful that he or anyone else will ever take Israeli "red lines" seriously.



Get wise about water

REGARDLESS of the outcome of the talks in Cairo, Israelis and Palestinians face some unavoidable facts.

Demographers anticipate that by the end of the century (only five years away), there will be nine million people living between the Jordan and the Mediterranean. The other given is that they will be drawing on the same limited resources of natural water.

This comes into sharper focus when we look at the volumes pumped out of the mountain aquifer, the underground body of water which lies mostly beneath the hills of Samaria and, to a lesser extent, on the other side of the Green Line.

Israel extracts 400 to 500 million cubic meters (mcm) annually, as against 100 mcm pumped out for Palestinian consumption. As the Palestinian population grows, it is inevitable that it will draw more and more from this aquifer, leaving less for Israel.

Israel is not the only country involved in Middle Eastern water conflicts. Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia have competing claims over the Nile. Turkey's Great Anatolia Project poses a potential threat to the water supplies of Syria and Iraq.

However, of all the countries in the region, only Israel and Jordan have reached the limit of their resources.

Given that Israel is using its available supply to the full, the question naturally arises: How will it cope with future population growth?

The answer: conservation and increasing supply.

Conservation is the most cost-effective method. Reducing demand and rewarding efficiency (especially in agriculture) by pricing water at its real economic value and encouraging the use of water-saving devices already available require minimal investment.

The ability to increase water supplies has been dramatically affected by desalination. Using available and tried technology, we can take sea water and produce pure drinking water economically.

JOSHUA JACOBSON

Thus, it isn't a hopeless zero-sum game for us west of the Jordan, as Itamar Marcus portrays the situation in "A hand on the faucet" (The Jerusalem Post, March 30).

Desalination is not pie-in-the-sky technology, but something that is happening now - in Eilat, Gaza and all over the world. The

Israel won't dry up if it quits Samaria

city of San Diego, California, for instance, is planning a massive plant to meet its growing needs in a state subject to prolonged droughts.

The key issue is, of course, cost. Today there is enough accumulated experience to enable us to predict the cost of desalinated water with reasonable accuracy.

At the current price of electricity in this country, sea water can be converted by combination power-and-water plants into drinking water at 75 to 80 cents per cubic meter (including capital costs). This assumes continuous production in a high-capacity plant, about 100,000 cubic meters per day. It doesn't include distribution charges which are common to water supplies, whatever the source.

By comparison, bottled water in the supermarket costs about NIS 1,000 per cubic meter.

APPLYING THIS to the problem of the mountain aquifer, assume the (impossible) worst case: We have to give up all pumping from the aquifer, forfeiting 500 million cubic meters per year.

If we had to replace this with desalinated water at 80 cents per cubic meter it would cost the state \$400 million annually. An impres-

sive sum - but still less than 1 percent of our annual Gross Domestic Product, which is about \$60 billion, and growing.

This doesn't take into account the availability of major saline water reserves in the Arava. Desalination of this less salty water would cost us even less, about half of the figure cited above.

Then there is recycling. About two-thirds of the water consumed in the cities can eventually be recycled for agriculture. Currently, Israel recycles about half of this resource.

Effluent (sewage) is a resource for us, and no less for the Palestinians. As the Palestinian population grows and becomes more urbanized, they will need to recycle their effluent effectively, both to produce water for agricultural use and to prevent the pollution of the mountain aquifer which is their only major water resource.

For the Palestinians to allow untreated flows of effluent into the aquifer on any serious scale would be bad for us. For them, it would be a self-inflicted wound of crippling proportions. It is unthinkable that they would allow this to happen.

The multilateral water commission, set up under the Oslo agreement, has met several times and reached broad agreement on some major principles:

- Water transfers from one country to another will be of little benefit and nations should direct their efforts to tackling their problems within their national borders;
- Much can be done to increase the availability of water resources;
- The most beneficial and practical approach will be better water management.

All these points are relevant to our situation. They tell us to make the best use of what we have, to plan carefully and to act intelligently. These are things Israel is good at when it chooses to be. Israel needs to focus on the problem and avoid paranoia about water supplies.

The writer is editor of International Water and Irrigation Review.

Busy parents

SARA ENGMAN

BABIES. Around the world they elicit oohs and ahs and coos, the ancient and universal language of the human species admiring its future.

Americans are no different. But despite their professed faith in family values, US public policies reflect what Richard Stolley, senior editorial adviser of Time Inc., calls a "savagely ambivalent" attitude toward the young. "We are sentimental about America's children," he says, "but in our actions we do not value them. We say we love them, but we give them little honor."

Stolley was one of a number of business leaders and public figures who addressed an invitation-only gathering in Washington last week coinciding with the release of yet another blue-ribbon report sounding the alarm about the welfare of American children.

This report, from the respected Carnegie Corporation of New York, has gotten a lot of attention from the media and in Capitol Hill - and deservedly so. "Starting Points: Meeting the Needs of our Youngest Children" describes a "quiet crisis" afflicting children under three and their families. This crisis, the report warns, is undermining the foundation of healthy emotional and intellectual

There is a 'quiet crisis' in America, afflicting children under three and their families

development that is essential to success in school and in life.

Babies and toddlers - terms that better describe the flesh-and-blood reality than "young children" - are the people we're talking about here. Across America, across economic and class lines, babies and toddlers are getting short shrift as their parents struggle with poverty; or as their middle-class parents try to juggle jobs and family responsibilities while keeping their balance on the workday treadmill; or as their affluent, high-achieving parents try to handle demanding jobs and still find the energy and time to lavish love and attention, rather than just material goods on their children.

According to the report, "Only half (50 percent) of infants and toddlers are routinely read to by their parents, and many parents do not engage in other activities to stimulate their young child's intellectual development. Unsurprisingly, teachers report that 35 percent of American kindergarten children arrive at school unprepared to learn."

BUSY PARENTS may expect that the people who take care of their children during the day will fill the gap. But there the news is troubling too. Two studies of child care have found distressing signs about the quality of care infants and toddlers receive.

A 1989 survey found that in child-care centers, infants and young toddlers spent more than half their time wandering aimlessly around, while older toddlers were unoccupied a third of the time. The study also found that fewer than one-third of these children had mastered age-appropriate ways of playing with other children, such as make-believe games or activities that required cooperation.

A study released earlier this month by the Families and Work Institute painted a similarly dismal picture of family child care. This study found that only 41 percent of the providers gave any thought ahead of time to what the children would do on a given day. Overall, only 9 percent of family child care and care by relatives was rated as good quality; 56 percent of these settings could be described as, at best, custodial; and 35 percent were so bad as to be harmful to the development of infants and toddlers.

No wonder then, that along with calls for new efforts to increase responsible parenthood and ensure better health care, the Carnegie report also stresses the need for more attention to the quality of day care.

The "quiet crisis" this report describes is not just a problem for the poor. The great, unwritten education story in the US is the not-so-quiet crisis visible in any kindergarten classroom, where children at all levels of society are coming to school without the self-confidence that results from secure emotional attachments; and without socialization skills, intellectual curiosity or other building blocks of a civilized person.

There are endless calls for education reform. But schools will never improve if the children entering them are unprepared to learn.

The writer is editorial-page director of the Baltimore Evening Sun.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEBRON HISTORY

Sir, - Notwithstanding my horror at the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron and of the defense of the perpetrator by a clique of soulless fanatics (searched for assiduously by the media to quote and further blacken our name), I must protest the ill-conceived government intentions to force evacuation of Jews from Hebron. This would be the thin edge of the wedge, to be followed by similar "transfers." One would think that Jews are interlopers in an Arab land. History shows otherwise.

Even before the American Revolution, the portrait of Rabbi Haim Isaac Carigal of Hebron, bosom friend of the renowned educator the Rev. Ezra Stiles of Yale University, was hanging on the walls of that institution.

The American explorer John

Lloyd Stephens, who later went on to fame by bringing to light the Mayan civilization of Yucatan, etc., published a book in 1837, *Incidents of Travel in Egypt, Arabia Petraea and the Holy Land, by an American*. His depiction of the inhabitants of Hebron bears repetition. The Arabs: "Seven or eight hundred families, the wildest, most lawless and desperate people in the Holy Land." The Jews: "I shall never forget the kindness with which, as a stranger and Christian, I was received by the Jews in the ancient city of their fathers." Both: "I emerged from the Jewish quarter, and it was with a warm feeling of thankfulness I felt, that if yesterday I had an Arab's curse, today I had a Jewish blessing."

PROFESSOR R. KENNETH Rishon LeZion.

PEACE PROSPECTS: THEN AND NOW

Sir, - The Jerusalem Post carried a front-page story headed: "Arab world has accepted Israel as fact." Reading the article, the reader learned that "the signing of the armistice bore out the oft-repeated contention that only equality of political status would bring the Arab world to recognize and accept Israel as a fact." The agreement with our Arab neighbors was hailed as "the first link in a new chain of evolutions." The foreign minister also "paid tribute to the realism and courage of the Egyptian government." The agreement signed with the Arab states "laid the basis for permanent peace."

On the same page, under the headline "Final peace settlement

not seen as urgent," a note of caution was sounded: "Satisfaction at the signing of the... agreement has probably (!) been slightly marred" by remarks made to the foreign minister to the effect that "no final settlement between Israel and the Arab states was possible without a prior agreement on the part of Israel to take back all Arab refugees desiring to return." Apart from this slight problem, peace was just around the corner.

The only cause for concern lies in the date of The Jerusalem Post in question: Friday, February 25, 1949.

Is the present government laying the foundation for the next 45 years of war?

MOSHE TZVI Jerusalem.

RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

Sir, - It was with sadness that I heard, via the media, that the Likud and other opposition parties were planning a mass demonstration against current government policies.

To further stir up those Israelis who are already thirsting for ways to vent their anger over terrorist attacks against Jews, is not the practice of responsible free speech in a democracy. Rather, it is irresponsible incitement at a time when calming political leadership is needed.

CHAIM LANGERT

Jerusalem.

RELIGIOUS JEWS

Sir, - Following reactions to my comments which appeared in *Newsline* of March 31, I would like to make the following clarifications:

1. I did not intend to say that wherever there are religious Jews, there is violence; rather, to my great sadness, in many recent cases in which there has been violence, nationalistic religious Jews were involved. In my opinion, there is a connecting thread between the Jewish underground, Kach and Yehud.

2. I described the large majority of religious Zionists as "right-wing" nationalists who express extremist positions and I expressed my sorrow for the loss of moderation which used to characterize the National Religious Party.

DOV HALBERTAL Jerusalem.

POSTSCRIPTS

A MAN GIVEN a new identity by Austrian doctors after he lost his memory may be a Canadian hockey player thought to have perished in a glacier four years ago.

The mystery of Mark S., as he is now known after losing his memory in unknown circumstances, could be close to solution.

In August 1989, a 23-year-old Canadian hockey player disappeared without trace somewhere on Stubaier glacier in the Tyrol. His car was found a month later. At about the same time, police in the city of Villach 200 km away picked up a vagrant who spoke only English and could not tell them who he was.

Psychiatrists surmised that he may have suffered a traumatic head injury. But all attempts to restore his memory, including hypnosis, failed and Interpol was unable to discover his true identity.

"He proved to be highly intelligent and learned German very easily," one doctor said.

In 1992, doctors decided that Mark should simply build up a new identity. He moved to the town of St. Veit.

"Now Mark S. faces possibly the biggest surprise of his life: the police believe they know his true identity," a newspaper report said.

There was no comment from the Canadian embassy on reports that the mother of the hockey player, who had remained steadfastly convinced that her son was alive, was soon to be reunited with him.

A GANG OF strippers robbed several supermarkets in Zwolle, Holland, riveting shopkeepers with bare breasts before emptying the cash register.

The group of about six thieves

have stolen more than 10,000 guilders (\$5,208) from three stores. A drugstore in nearby Groningen was hit earlier by the bare-breasted bandits.

The women make a noisy entrance to the shop and take off their blouses. With the entire store dazzled by their display, accomplices rifle through the cash drawer.

"It sounds like too easy of a crime, but in the midst of the confusion, it happened," a police spokesman said.

After they get the cash, the women grab their clothes and flee in getaway cars. The dazed witnesses have so far not been much assistance to police.

One newspaper reported the strippers were of Yugoslav origin.



مَكَانُ الْأَمَلِ

21. 1994 The Jerusalem Post

Busy parents

SARA ENGMAN

BABIES. Around the world, they elicit love and affection, the ancient and universal language of the human race.

Americans are no different. In fact, they are more so. In a public poll conducted by the National Public Health Statistics Center, 15 percent of the nation's parents of young children said they were "very" or "somewhat" concerned about their children's future. The survey, which was conducted in 1993, found that 15 percent of the nation's parents of young children said they were "very" or "somewhat" concerned about their children's future. The survey, which was conducted in 1993, found that 15 percent of the nation's parents of young children said they were "very" or "somewhat" concerned about their children's future.

There is a 'quiet crisis' in America afflicting children under three and their families

There is a 'quiet crisis' in America afflicting children under three and their families. The crisis is not one of physical abuse or neglect, but of emotional and intellectual stimulation. In a recent report by the National Public Health Statistics Center, it was found that 15 percent of the nation's parents of young children said they were "very" or "somewhat" concerned about their children's future. The survey, which was conducted in 1993, found that 15 percent of the nation's parents of young children said they were "very" or "somewhat" concerned about their children's future.

Should I tell my family that sis is a lesbian?

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
My sister, who is considered an "old maid" in our family because she is in her late thirties and still single, just confided in me that she is a lesbian. She made me swear not to discuss this with the rest of the family. But I am tempted to tell them all, just to get them to stop holding family symposia to figure out how to help her find a husband.

Isn't it better for all of us, in the long run, if I break her confidence?
Caught in the Middle of a Muddle
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Muddle Intermediary,

Though it might be better for all of you if the truth came out, your sister chose you above others to guard her secret, and you should not be the one to reveal it.

What you can do — if you feel strongly about it — is try to persuade her to come out of the family closet. But she may have good reason to be hesitant. You cannot anticipate how the rest of your clan will respond to the revelation.

Dear Ruthie,

I am a great-grandmother. I have lived many years and seen many things. This is why I feel so hurt by this family. My grandson divorced his wife a year ago, and everyone knew about it except me. Can you imagine a whole year going by without being told such a thing? How can I react to such a slap in the face?

White Haired and White-Lied-To
Kochav Yair

Dear Lied To,

It appears that your family feared you would not take news of your grandson's divorce well, perhaps because they did not take it too well. Acting out of some arrogant idea that the "older" generation is more prudish or squeamish than its younger counterpart, your children and grandchildren tried

to protect you from something they consider unpleasant. Perhaps your past reactions to bad tidings have contributed to their inclination to exclude you from family difficulties. In any event, your hurt feelings are understandable.

Ironically, if you are too open in expressing your disappointment, the family is liable to feel justified in having kept you in the dark. The most clever move you can make now is to shrug with nonchalance and claim to have known all along. That ought to make them feel like a bunch of silly fuddy-duddies.

Dear Ruthie,

I am fed up with living in the city. There is no space for the kids to run around outside, and no space for all of us indoors. My wife is against moving out of town because she likes being near the urban buzz. How can we reach an agreement about this?

City Slinker
Jerusalem

Dear City Slinker,

I don't suppose flipping a coin would be in order. Nor do I believe that you will have great success in persuading your wife to adopt your idea of greener pastures. In the end, money will tip the scales. The more money you have, the easier it will be to satisfy both of your needs simultaneously by living in a rural area inside of the city. The less money you have, the more the passage of time will affect your wife's outlook or yours.

In the meantime, surround yourself with plants, go on a lot of picnics and pay frequent visits to friends who live outside of the "buzz."

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



With their unique smells and time-worn coats, cuddly mother-substitutes are a museum item in Paris.

(Yuval Shomesh)

Teddy bears steal the show

TRAVEL
MARILYN AUGUST

CUDDLY, furry and the rather better — a child's best friend has taken center stage at Paris's Museum of Decorative Arts in a delightful show about the teddy bear.

Hundreds of bears from all over the world, including 40 dressed by France's top designers, are on display showing how they gripped the young imagination for the past century and a half.

There's Winnie the Pooh and Paddington, widely known in the English-speaking world, while Francophiles will recognize Prosper, Petit Ours Brun (little brown bear) and Collarlog.

Other traditional favorites include "The Three Bears," on display with the original illustrations from the story written in 1831.

There are bears wielding spatulas and wire whips, cooking up a storm in the kitchen; bears in class outfits designed by Christian Dior and Sonia Rykiel at a Punch and Judy show; and baby bears bedding down in practical plaid jammies by The Gap.

There's a case full of raggedy bears with dogtags, identifying their now middle-aged masters. "The most beloved is the old

teddy, with his unique smell and his time-worn coat, substitute for the mother," said Monica Burckhardt, the show's curator. "He's the one that is remembered."

Other highlights include the first stuffed teddy, who was born in Germany in 1903 with a mohair plush coat and shoe-button eyes. Wind-up and mechanical toy bears abound: They bang drums, feed their young and dig into the honey pot. Many were manufactured in Japan and date from the 1950s.

Dozens of spellbound tots pressed their noses against a glass case displaying a circus bear cycling back and forth on the high wire thanks to a counterweight. Others were anxious to pat several larger-than-life grizzlies and brown bears spread throughout the exhibition.

The show has met with great success since it opened February 9. On a recent weekday afternoon, hundreds of families huddled with strollers under umbrel-

las waiting more than an hour to get in.

Teddy bears may be confident, best friend and favorite toy all rolled into one, but a century ago, parents thought bears were bestowed with life-saving magical powers.

Mothers in 19th-century Europe took their children to see the itinerant bear-tamer whose famed attraction was supposed to infuse courage into fearful or nightmarish youngsters as well as ward off serious illness.

The kids loved it — they got a chance to ride on the bear's back. In recent years, teddies have become collectors' items worth thousands of dollars in the United States, France, Australia and England. Auctions nearly always feature a few mangy bears.

Packed away in boxes or tucked under the covers long after other stuffed toys have been destroyed or given away, teddies are a powerful reminder of the joys and sorrows of childhood.

"The teddy bear was invented as a toy but as time passed, it acquired protective powers and became a substitute for the mother," said Burckhardt.

According to child psychologists, the teddy bear becomes a transitional object which allows the child to act out a variety of feelings without guilt or fear of punishment.

"The child projects himself onto the bear. The bear is a good listener and knows how to comfort him," she said. "The child takes him everywhere — to school, on the plane and to the hospital — because it makes him feel secure."

Bears have fascinated man since time immemorial.

"Bears are intelligent, clever and, in some ways, they're like us," Burckhardt said. "They eat with their paws, nurse their young the way humans do. Even their sympathy makes them funny, sympathetic creatures."

An unofficial survey taken at the show indicated that most children prefer big bears.

"I have three, but like the big one the best," said Alexandra, a second-grader. "It doesn't get lost in my bed." (Associated Press)



Springtime lures to Europe

TRAVEL TIPS
HAM SHAPIRO

NATOUR, the country's largest travel wholesaler, is offering several attractive springtime packages, among them a four-night stay in London, including airfare and breakfast, from \$399, and a seven-night package to Paris for \$475. Also available is a week in New York, including airfare, for \$1,039.

Natour is also now arranging for independent travel in Morocco, in addition to the group tours that several travel agencies offer. The agency can book a seven-day tour of Morocco with a local company for \$375, including accommodations in four-star hotels, but not transportation to and from Israel. Israeli citizens can obtain a visa to Morocco through any travel agent; it costs \$95.

THE LATEST in the credit-card travel bargains is from Visa, which, in cooperation with Ophir Tours, is offering a round-trip flight to either Cyprus or Antalya for \$99, plus a \$25 registration fee and 500 Visa points.

VISITORS TO Britain should consider buying a Great Britain Heritage Pass, which allows free entry to over 500 historic attractions, including Windsor Castle, Hampton Court Palace, Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon and Stonehenge. The cost of the pass is £29 for 15 days or £43 for 30 days and it is available only to overseas visitors.

Another British attraction, for those who would like to dine like royalty, is not with royalty, is Sandringham, the queen's country house in Norfolk, about 160 kilometers north of London. The establishment now conducts private evening tours, which can be followed by dinner in the estate's new restaurant. Restricted to groups of 10 or more, the tour is £7.50 per person, plus VAT, and the dinners start at £10 per person. For information contact the Public Access Manager, Estate Office, Sandringham, Norfolk PE35 6EN.

ALITALIA HAS set up a special room for unaccompanied children up to age 14 and other passengers needing special attention at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport. The room, known as Sala Amica, is located in the domestic departure lounge and open from 7 a.m. to midnight.

Dreaming on the job

LIFE-STYLE
KARA SWISHER

A Washington lobbyist, who did not want to be named, said she often thinks about every person at a meeting sleeping with the person sitting directly to the left of them.

"I do it to amuse myself," the lobbyist said.

Another lawyer said he thinks about what a trial would be like if everybody in the courtroom — lawyers, defendants and judges — were naked.

But the basketball fantasy is one of the favorites that Exec magazine executive editor Mark Golin got when more than 3,000 readers of the new Pennsylvania publication responded to a survey asking about office daydreams.

"I am 201 cm., 108 kg., a forward for the LA Lakers. I'm playing in the NBA finals where I kick Michael Jordan's skinny, over-commercialized butt. Then I send copies of my paycheck to all my exes. And, finally, I show up at my former office in my uniform and ask the boss if he wants my autograph. I don't give it to him."

After a winter of ice-crusted mental hibernation, the lovely weather encourages office grunts to turn themselves into fantasy basketball champs, urban heroes who rescue babies from burning buildings, new-age Romeos who woo the entire marketing department and business geniuses whose single idea adds millions to the bottom line.

Or, perhaps best of all, weaker of revenge who dress down an army of nasty bosses.

According to Exec's survey, management consultants and workplace experts, daydreaming is a prime activity in the office. Of the Exec readers who responded, 51 percent said their minds invariably wander during meetings. The readers said they daydreamed most often in the afternoon, for an average of about a minute at a time.

Frank Stafford, a University of Michigan economics professor who has conducted time-use studies in the workplace, said daydreaming is one of many ways workers cut into the workweek. Other methods include talking to colleagues, taking lots of coffee and cigarette breaks, chatting on the phone with friends and figuring out what to do after work.

Altogether, he estimates, such activities eat up 13 hours of a 40-hour workweek. Of that, perhaps three hours is spent daydreaming, Stafford said.

"People spend a lot of time at work not working," Stafford said. But he and other specialists call such mental shutdowns harmless, and even beneficial, unless they take up too much time and hurt

output. Golin thinks daydreaming is an important part of the day. "It's like a pressure valve that allows you to release steam."

Speaking of heat, one of the top daydreaming topics, unsurprisingly, is sex. Of the Exec survey respondents, 80 percent of men and 51 percent of women think about sex when they daydream.

It doesn't take much to get workers to talk about all the different kinds of daydreaming. "I plan out all these ways I would quit and walk out of the office," said one retailing executive.

"I think about winning the Pulitzer Prize, even though you can't win one at a magazine ... and calling my mother and telling her," said Mark Llewellyn, a reporter in Business Week's bureau here.

"In one good one I have a lot, I am winning the Olympic marathon and the ABC helicopter is whizzing above and Jim McKay is doing play-by-play. I am, of course, the underdog and usually racing neck and neck with America's current enemy."

Does such intense creativity devoted to something that does not add to the bottom line hurt productivity?

Most in the Exec survey said the daydreaming time is well spent because it releases stress, frustration and boredom.

"It's certainly a coping mechanism to deal with unbearable pressure that we all pretty much live with at work," said Gene Calvert, the author of a recent book called *Highwire Management*.

(The Washington Post)

Tales told by the dead: Fuentes coiled in circles of time

THE ORANGE TREE, by Carlos Fuentes, translated by Alfred Mac Adam (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$21, 229 pp.)

MEXICAN novelist Carlos Fuentes' magical new book, *The Orange Tree* — expertly translated by Alfred Mac Adam — snakes together five novellas into an intricately coiled mass in which heads and tails, beginnings and endings, fiction and history, become deliberately indistinguishable.

These are tales told by the dead, full of sound and fury, signifying all of Fuentes' obsessions: among other things, the transmigration of souls, the music of the spheres, the nature of God, man's inhumanity, duality and, as the original Spanish version made clear in its subtitle (omitted in English), "the circles of time."

The orange tree forms a common element in all these stories, and the orange, more cipher than symbol, variously reflects in its burnished glow the sun, the earth, fertility, civilization, the mixing of races, the maternal breast, the erotic breast and the cycles of time.

This ancient tree of life first shows up in the Roman general Scipio's garden, in the story "The Two Numantias." It is brought by the Greek historian Polybius who was given seeds by a Syrian friend. There is a corresponding orange tree in Numantia, the Spanish town besieged by Scipio, the seeds

of which were brought by "a repentant traveler, Genoese to be precise." Who is this Wandering Jew, this anachronistic Old-World Johnny Orange Seed? Could he be a reincarnation of Columbus?

Columbus, it turns out in the last story, was indeed a wandering Sephardi Jew (whose family had fled from Spain), who does plant orange seeds in the New World.

In the second story, Hernan Cortes does likewise near Acapulco; and in the fourth, Vince Valera, an Oscar-winning actor from Los Angeles of black-Irish heritage, "a descendant of the Spanish sailors washed up on the coast of Ireland after the disaster of the Invincible Armada," is buried beside that orange tree outside Acapulco and dreams in death about the tree. He tries "to imagine who planted it, a Mediterranean, Oriental, Arabian, Chinese tree, in this distant coast of the Americas."

Then Columbus, returning to Spain after 500 years, vows in the last line of the book: "I shall plant the orange seed again."

Sounds confusing? It isn't once you understand that Fuentes is playing his favorite game of re-writing history as his own cyclical story.

THERE ARE any number of

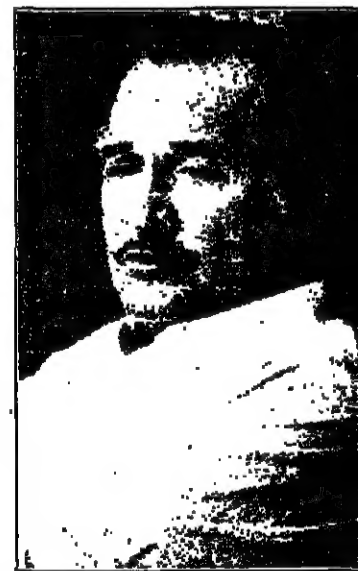
BOOKS
ALLEN JOSEPHS

wonderful moments of historical vengeance in these highly inventive narratives. In the first, "The Two Shores," a renegade conquistador leads an army of Mayans against Seville and the narrator tells us: "I saw the burnt water of the Guadalquivir and the burning of the Tower of Gold ... using the stones of the Giralda, we began to build the temple of the four religions, inscribed with the words of Christ, Mohammed, Abraham and Quetzalcoatl."

In "Sons of the Conquistador," which is about two sons of Cortes, one by a Spanish mother and the other by Cortes' Indian translator, La Malinche, there is a fine moment that portrays the duality of the mestizo, when the son of the Indian wonders: "Which God: mirror of smoke or Holy Spirit, plumed serpent or crucified Christ, god that demands my death or god that gives me his, sacrificing father or sacrificed father, obsidian knife or cross?"

A millennium and a half earlier, after destroying Carthage and Numantia, Scipio was murdered, possibly by followers of his rival cousins, the Gracchi.

In "The Two Numantias," Fuentes' dead Scipio wonders if the Greek mystic Pythagoras was right "that the soul is a fallen divinity, imprisoned in our bodies



Fuentes: In his new novellas, fiction and history become deliberately indistinguishable.

and condemned to repeat endlessly, circularly, a cycle of reincarnations."

The fourth novella, called "Apollo and the Whores," by contrast recounts an offshore orgy on a sailboat involving the actor Vince Valera, a madam he calls Snow White, and seven young Acapulco prostitutes.

Invincible Vince, unworried about "love in the times of AIDS," takes on all seven of the girls at once, and in the ultimate parody of fantasy has a heart at-

tack at high noon.

Death gives him the ability to read the girls' minds and narrate the story, all the while shedding his gringo prejudices and revivifying in death all the different characters of the book.

In the final story Columbus discovers America alone, his crews having mutinied and returned to Spain.

He lives an idyllic existence for 500 years until the Japanese and the Europeans finally find the New World only to ruin it.

Columbus sadly returns to Spain to find the home of his Sephardic ancestors in Toledo and to replant the orange tree, thus closing the circle.

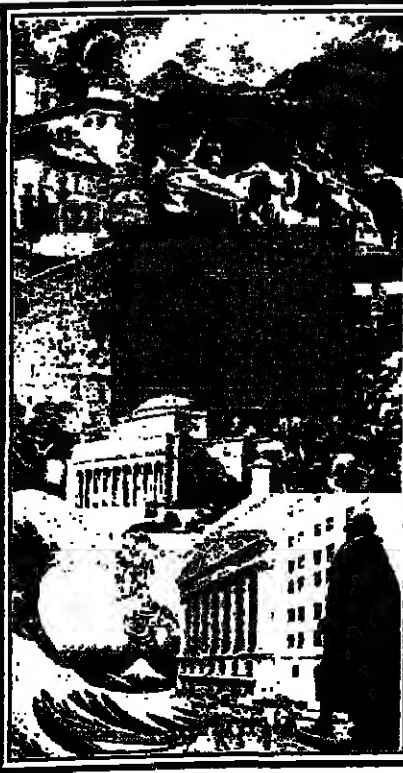
This alternately wise, wild and witty collection of novellas (Fuentes' third book on the Columbian quincentennial) is both engaging and engaged.

Its dualistic underlying subject matter, the role of cultural identity in human survival and the devastating price of cultural warfare, could not be more serious.

Yet Fuentes' ironic and inventive treatment of it — especially seen against the current academic wrangling about ethnicity, multiculturalism and gender — makes *The Orange Tree* as delightful as its namesake.

(Newsday)

The reviewer is University Research Professor at the University of West Florida.



A Journey Through Illusions

Kurt Lewin retells a series of personal adventures, each more surprising than the last... the horrors of the Holocaust in southern Poland, being sheltered by Archbishop Andrew Graf Szepietzki who saved his and many other Jewish lives, serving in the Polish Army. After wanderings as a displaced person, he arrived in Haifa with a boatload of Holocaust survivors, served as a commander in the Hagana during the siege of Jerusalem and later served as an officer alongside Moshe Dayan. He continued on to America where he reached the pinnacle on Wall St. and to Japan to witness the building of a superpower. "There is much passion and pain in Kurt Lewin's volume which must be read if one wishes to understand Jewish concerns of today" Eli Wiesel. Hardcover 461 pp. Fithian Press. JP Price NIS 69.00

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Price: NIS 90,500

THE local advertisements for the Ford Mondeo describe the successor to the Sierra as the "Car of the Year 1994." They don't say who gave it the title.

I collected the striking-looking, bright-red vehicle from the local dealers, Automotive Equipment Ltd., who also handle Suzuki products.

For the uninitiated who still associate Ford with hot dogs and apple pie, the Mondeo which comes here is made in Spain, the UK or Germany. The Mondeo is from Germany.

It combines the best of America with Europe. Like American cars, the Mondeo is roomy, driver friendly and made with the finest materials.

Moreover, the top of the dashboard has roller-coaster-like dips and curves, but driver's vision is unimpaired by blind spots. The effectiveness of the aerodynamic design can be gauged by the silence of the drive. Even the side mirrors have been designed to reduce turbulence and wind noise.

Driving comfort is aided by a few special features. To ensure visibility is not impaired by rain,



The Mondeo combines the best of America with Europe: It's roomy, driver friendly and made with the finest materials.

a cunning "water catching" device prevents water displaced by the washers from being dispersed over the windshield by the wind. In addition, the headlights' dipped beam has a photometric system which delivers greater light output than conventional designs.

The controls, from the light switches to the

buttons on the inside of the doors controlling the electric windows, are ergonomically situated and easy to operate.

THE DRIVING seats are comfortable and can be adjusted for all sizes, as can the easy-to-handle steering wheel. Five long-legged adults can sit in

comfort. The trunk and the glove compartment are both spacious.

Included in the Mondeo's basic price is a steering-wheel air bag and an ABS braking system, which is admirable. However, this does not excuse the lack of electrically controlled side mirrors — a feature found in most other cars of this

price range. The sunroof must also be opened manually.

The Mondeo's European heritage is to be found in the almost perfect suspension and road holding, and in the engine's power when functioning at low rpm's.

The computerized suspension system (called an "adaptive damping system") can react quickly between prevailing road or driving conditions. The suspension combines excellent ride with directional and braking stability. The design of the precise rack-and-pinion steering has been optimized to take advantage of the power steering.

The engine does not turn the automobile into a rocket and is based on torque (flexibility) rather than speed. It can generate maximum power without the need to scream up to the high revs. This type of engine is quieter and far more suited to travel in this country, where there are few open roads. Safe, accelerated passing can be achieved from all speeds.

The electronic, four-speed automatic transmission features overdrive, sport and economy settings. A safety-lock interlock system prevents the selector from accidentally being moved into drive and reverse.

In addition to the 1.8-liter automatic-shift model which I tested, Automotive Equipment is also importing a two-liter Mondeo with 136 h.p. (at 6,000 rpm). It will sell for NIS 96,000.

I would not say the Mondeo is the "Car of the Year," but it provides an extremely viable alternative to its main opposition in the 1.8 liter field, the Mitsubishi Galant.

The Galant is cheaper at NIS 88,000 and has more accessories, but the Mondeo is more spacious and gives a more comfortable ride.



The Italian Clark vest, imported by Airport.

Great tops for show-offs

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE vest or gilet, as it is called in fashionable circles, has come into its own this season.

It is worn with equal frequency and aplomb by both men and women.

Manufactured in a variety of fabrics — including chiffons, silk, satin, velvet, linen, denim and tooled leather — the vest lends a nice finishing touch to ensemble dressing.

In its sportier and casual versions, it is either macho or sexy, depending on who is wearing it. Many men tend to fling a vest over a T-shirt.

Some of the younger, well-built, muscular men wear a loose vest over a bare torso.

Women who like to show off

their bodies wear a vest over a bra top or a cropped tank, but in general women are using vests for mix-and-match effects in layered outfits of mixed proportions.

Because silhouettes tend to be loose and unstructured, the vest follows suit, and hangs as a flowing adornment.

It's a lifesaver for women who love the totally transparent tunics which are currently in vogue, but are a little too conservative to wear them in public. The vest covers the bosom and part of the torso, enabling the wearer to indulge her whim without sacrificing her modesty.

There are some tailored vests popular.



Just Looking linen vest with lace flowers.

OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA WEISELS

ANYTHING which can be imported will be imported.

This consumer axiom was illustrated the other day with the arrival of crackers from Uruguay. Why do we need crackers from Uruguay? Your guess is as good as mine.

The importer, Rywkind International of Tel Aviv, says the imports will be exceptionally low priced, even compared with local brands at discount outlets.

Already available at some private shops and soon to arrive at some of the chain stores, the Uruguayan crackers come in four varieties.

To my taste, the best are the light, crispy, golden-hued crackers called Famosa Simpatia, but they are not significantly different from local crackers of this type.

Some consumers may prefer the bran-enriched whole-wheat variety, Anselmi Salvado Natural.

Both types contain salt and sugar.

There are also Uruguayan golden and whole-wheat crackers with reduced fat content, no salt whatsoever — and no taste. These are labeled Famosa Magra Sin Sal and Famosa Salvado Magro Sin Sal. Their sugar component is cleverly disguised as "glucose," "dextrose" and/or "corn syrup."

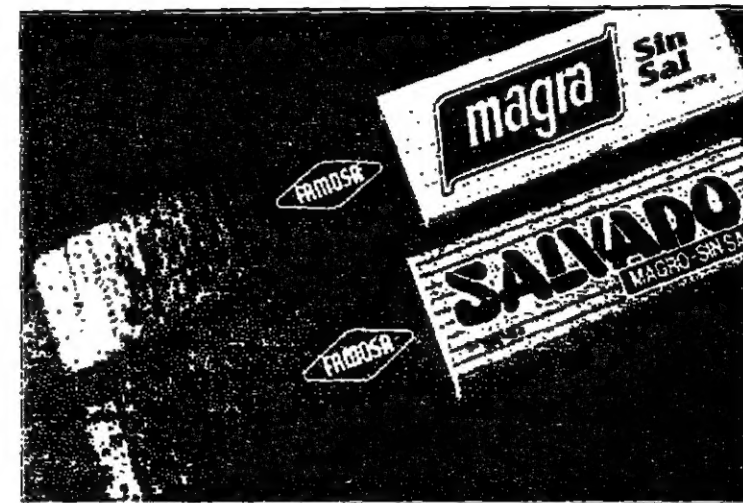
All are certified as "kasher parve" by Rabbi Yosef Gabai of Montevideo, Uruguay. The importer plans to apply for Israeli Chief Rabbinate endorsement at a later stage.

At private shops, the regular golden and whole-wheat crackers are supposed to retail for a maximum of NIS 3.95 for both the 200 and 220 grams, while the smaller packages of salt-free, low-fat crackers are only NIS 2.95.

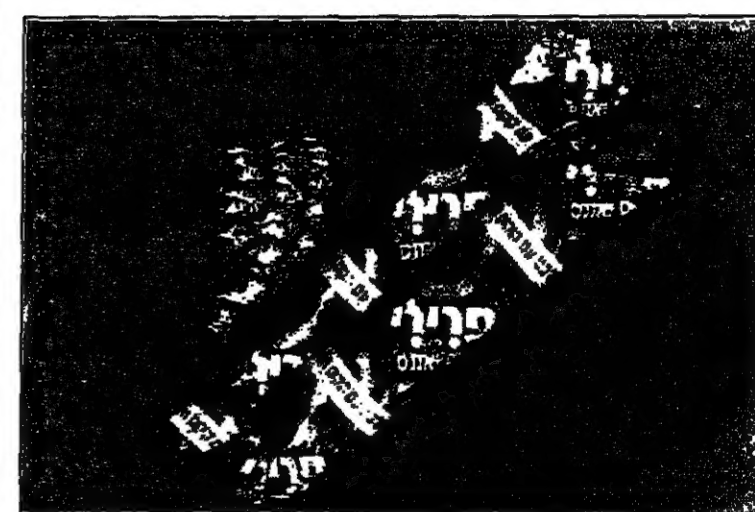
The chains will set their own prices. While the price may be right, we already have a wide range of local crackers from Osem, Froumine, Beigel Beigel, Hadar and Danenberg, some of which cost no more or even less, especially when purchased in large economy packages.

BLUE SQUARE Co-op is in a jam. That is to say, it is marketing a new line of Romanian imports brand-named "Jam" and brought here by Co-op's importing division, Galaxy. They also carry the Romanian term "gem."

Imported jam is less surprising than imported crackers, probably because we've long been accus-



(Clockwise from above) Flavorless crackers from afar; dinosaur schnitzel; coconut-pineapple; frozen; sherbet; chocolate on a stick eliminates mess but could be dangerous.



tomed to other Romanian, Swiss and Hungarian jams at the Co-op and Super-Sol chains, and elsewhere.

Moreover, even in locally produced jams, the forest-fruit types are generally made from raw materials of European origin.

Jams and confitures from the former Eastern bloc countries tend to be cheaper than what our local manufacturers produce. The new line at Blue Square's stores will cost NIS 5.45 at Super Co-op and NIS 5.15 at Hyper-Co-op for 450 grams.

During the introductory sale, three flavors — strawberry, sour cherry and apricot — will be even cheaper, NIS 4.65 at the Super stores and NIS 4.25 at the Hypermart. The other flavors, at their regular price, are red raspberry, black raspberry, blueberry, plum and quince.

Co-op reports that the Romanian jams contain a particularly

high percentage of fruit, usually associated with confiture rather than jam.

The chain is also importing confitures, and the main difference is said to be that the jams spread more easily.

There are also two varieties of Romanian fruit compote, pear and cherry.

While the jams called Jam are indeed rich in flavorful fruit, customers should be forewarned that the jars themselves have old-fashioned lids which have to be pried off, and therefore do not screw back on tightly. Apart from that, the Romanian products are a good value.

NOBODY IS importing frozen chicken schnitzel — yet. But the Beit She'an Valley poultry processor, Of Tov, is importing an American-made potato-chip crumb coating for schnitzel.

It makes a very crisp and tasty



POTATO-CHIP coating has also appeared on frozen chicken snacks from Mili, called Ringaloch ("rings"). They are made of ground chicken breast and come in a choice of three coatings — potato-chip crumbs, sesame and regular (i.e., conventional bread crumbs).

All three versions are vitamin enriched.

Both the label and instructions (for oven, frying pan or microwave) are Hebrew only, but there is a colorful photo of chicken rings on the wrapper.

The family-sized 750-gram box of Ringaloch will usually sell for NIS 17.50, but there is a 10-percent discount this month at the chain stores.

DINOSAUR-SHAPED miniature chicken schnitzels are the latest gimmick in the children's line Hana'sch Hakatan, from International Food.

The shape may be different, but the product is the company's traditional bite-sized kiddie schnitzel. A 400-gram box of this Schnitzel Dino retails for NIS 11.99.

CHOCOLATE manufacturers also seem to think children will eat more of their product if it comes in fancy shapes.

The Vered Hagall confectioners, which came out with chocolate dinosaurs earlier this year, has added bears and bunny rabbits to its menagerie.

These, however, don't come boxed, but on sticks, like lollipops.

Vered Hagall cites this as an advantage, to keep little hands clean.

I am uneasy with the company's claim that these chocolates on sticks are "suitable and safe for babies" as well as for children and the young at heart. It seems to me that sticky fingers are preferable to sticks for toddlers and certainly for babies, who might poke themselves in the eye or even choke on the stick.

For youngsters mature enough to be trusted with a sweet on a stick, the individually wrapped chocolate animals, called Shokolak, sell for 90 agorot apiece and weigh 15 grams.

TENNE-NOGA'S LATEST Prü non-dairy sherbet on a stick has a very adult flavor — coconut/pineapple.

I enjoyed every one of the 100 calories in this fruit frozen treat, with real slivers of coconut and pineapple.

I doubt whether many children would like it, though.

It sells for NIS 1.65, weighs 70 grams and is certified as parve.

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Otherwise, they'll be put to sleep. 02-283521. NIS.

HALF-PERSIAN WHITE KITTEN — NIS 200.00. 02-810364.

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Ads must reach The Bargain Basement, The Jerusalem Post, Rehov Yirmiyahu in Romat (POB 81, on hold over and published the following week.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1994

Hapoalim shareholders postpone approval of Sivan's 50% pay raise

BANK Hapoalim's annual general shareholders meeting yesterday postponed the board of directors' decision earlier this week to approve a 50 percent salary hike for chief executive officer Amiram Sivan.

Sivan's salary is subject to the approval of the new board of directors, even though he resigned at the end of the last board meeting, according to Judge Eliazar David Bar, the government's representative at the meeting.

He asked the committee members to defer the decision on Sivan's salary to a board of directors meeting in the presence of the new board members.

Representatives of Bank Hapoalim Trust Company, which hold the government's shares in the bank, demanded the general shareholders hold a special meeting to discuss directors' salaries and benefits.

At the meeting, shareholders will decide whether to alter the board's current employment conditions.

The government representatives said directors' employment conditions will remain unchanged until

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

the deferred shareholders meeting next month.

The shareholders approved a special NIS 150,000 bonus for Emanuel Sharon, Hapoalim's chairman of the board.

The government representatives also demanded Hapoalim's management appoint an additional accountancy firm.

The shareholders have given the board of directors one month to propose another office which will operate with the veteran firm.

The shareholders approved the appointment of five new directors to the bank who will replace Amiram Sivan, Albert Abitbol, Rivka Gen, Joseph Cohen and Ezra Rabin.

The new directors are Yair Rotlevi, an industrialist and owner of Lodzia Rotex Textile; Avraham Botzer, formerly a navy commander; Zvi Koren, previously manager of the Industry and Trade Ministry; Moshe Merav, previously a Bank of Israel official and manager of Maritime Bank and Zipora Cohen, a lawyer from Bar-Ilan University.

The government's candidates

for United Mizrahi Bank's board of directors were also approved yesterday at a lengthy general shareholders meeting.

The shareholders approved Mizrahi managing director David Blumberg's employment conditions and decided to continue employing the Broide accounting firm as the bank's auditors.

The shareholders approved the appointment of eight new directors to the bank's board.

The shareholders appointed Yisrael Igra, previously a Bank of Israel official and manager of Clal Investment House; Alon Cohen, an economic adviser and previously an official at the Treasury's budget division; Yisrael Arkin, previously in charge of budgets and manager of Agrexco; Yehuda Weller, a business consultant and previously a Bank Leumi senior executive; Chaim Dubensky, previously a Bank Hapoalim and a consultant to the World Bank; Yosef Uziel, a lawyer and director at Rascos; Dr. Shoshana Neuman, an economics lecturer at Bar-Ilan University and Prof. Ruth Ben-Israel, previously head of Tel Aviv's law department.

Some arrangement bank shares to be sold overseas

EVELYN GORDON

MI HOLDINGS has decided to sell some of the arrangement bank shares overseas, via private placements, Treasury director-general Aharon Fogel told the Knesset finance committee yesterday.

The shares sold in this manner will be the same as those traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, he said, thus implying that the first banks to be sold overseas will be Hapoalim and Leumi, the only two traded on the bourse.

However, Fogel added, controlling stakes in the banks will not be sold in this manner.

Fogel noted that the govern-

ment is planning to raise NIS 4.6 billion this year from the sale of state-owned companies.

He did not say whether the decision to sell shares overseas was prompted by fear that this goal could not be met purely through sales on the local stock exchange, where demand has been weak lately.

Yossi Nitzani, head of the government Companies Authority, told the committee that a prospectus for the sale of 50% of El Al will be published next year.

The authority is currently examining bids by various companies interested in doing a valuation of the airline, he said.

Nitzani also told the committee that 19 parties participated in the initial stage of the tender for Shekem and five have expressed interest in purchasing Israel Shipyard.

The authority is currently preparing for the sale of Shikun Ufiah, Lapidot, Tahal and Afridar, he added.

Jose Rosenfeld adds:
Government Companies Au-

thority director Yossi Nitzani yesterday requested state firm heads to report on all the land at their disposal by the end of July.

The request follows from a cabinet decision earlier this year to make an inventory of all the land controlled by those companies that are not being used for their originally intended purpose or which are not being economically exploited.

The authority will explore ways to encourage these corporations to release those lands through economic incentives.

Fogel: Treasury against raising rates

EVELYN GORDON

RAISING interest rates would fuel inflation, and the Finance Ministry opposes such a move, Treasury director-general Aharon Fogel told the Knesset finance committee yesterday.

"The leaks that are apparently meant to prepare the ground for raising short-term interest rates contradict the government's goal of growth," Fogel said, referring to press reports that the Bank of Israel plans to raise rates.

Fogel's words met with wide-

spread approval from the MKs.

"Interest rates are an economic input just like any other item, and we need to do everything possible to lower them," said Haim Oron (Meretz), who heads the coalition in the committee.

"There is room to lower interest rates, but I would be satisfied as long as they don't go higher," added committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor).

Ariel Weinstein (Likud) requested that central bank governor Jacob Frenkel appear before the committee to hear its opinions before he makes any decisions on interest rates.

However, Gal said he has not yet decided if he will accede to Weinstein's request, for fear of damaging the central bank's independence.

Neil Cohen adds:
Meanwhile, speaking to reporters in Tel Aviv yesterday, Clal (Israel) chairman Avi Olshansky said the Bank of Israel should accelerate the rate of devaluation of the shekel to maintain economic growth.

Olshansky also called on the government to release land at a much faster rate to avoid what he called a potential crisis in the housing market.

Koor plans for early redemption of bonds

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KOOR Industries yesterday announced plans for the early redemption of its remaining bonds, which are traded in New York and due for redemption by the year 2002.

Speaking to Wall Street bankers, Koor Industries President and CEO Benny Gaon said the early redemption will lead to a significant reduction in the conglomerate's financing expenses.

In 1986, Koor Industries issued bonds totaling \$105 million on Wall Street.

The issued bonds carried an annual interest rate of 12% and could be redeemed from March 1992 to September 2002.

As part of the conglomerate's efforts to restructure, a special agreement was reached with the bond holders whereby 93% of the bond holders sold their bonds for a package of securities containing shares, a cash payment and new bonds at a total value of \$64.3m. and carrying an annual interest rate of 8.5%.

Gaon said Koor has decided to advance the redemption date and exercise the remaining bonds valued at \$55.22m.

Koor said bond holders have already exercised \$9.1m. worth of bonds.

In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, Koor said local banks have agreed to provide the conglomerate with the funds needed to redeem the bonds.

Current account balance registers \$1.37b. deficit

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE country's current account balance registered a deficit of \$1.37 billion last year following a \$218 million surplus in 1992, as the trade deficit widened and receipts of unilateral transfers fell, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The current account includes the balance of trade and of financial transfers.

The trade deficit jumped 21.8 percent to \$8.12b. as imports expanded \$2.9b. only to be partially offset by a \$1.5b. rise in exports.

Net unilateral transfers - including foreign aid, reparation payments from Germany and donations - fell a slight 2% to \$6.747b. as foreign aid decreased after rising in the Gulf War's aftermath.

Unilateral transfers only covered 83% of the trade deficit, unlike in 1992 when such receipts were 4% higher than the trade gap.

Foreign aid decreased \$274m. to \$3.187b. German reparations payments totaled \$707m., while private donations were \$2.853b.

The country's foreign debt increased last year by \$1.9b. after rising by \$1.6b. in 1992. The government incurred most of the additional debt through the US loan guarantee funds it raised.

As foreign debt increased, the country's foreign assets rose \$1.3b., as they did in 1992.

Foreigners invested \$700m. here, as they did in 1992. By contrast, Israel's investments abroad fell to \$800m. last year from \$1.6b., as the soaring local stock exchange became a favored investment target.

At the end of last year, the net external debt rose to \$15.7b. from \$15.2b. The government's portion of the debt increased to 55% from 53%.

Imports of goods and services rose 10.3% to \$30.26b. from \$27.446b. The increase reflected a \$1.5b. rise in civilian goods imports, \$700m. in additional defense imports and a \$600m. jump in foreign travel expenditures.

Local residents' foreign travel expenses, which increased 25% last year, are considered a service import.

Exports of goods and services rose 6.6% to \$22.14b. Goods exports, which expanded 11%, contributed \$1.5b. to overall exports, while service exports fell \$100m. Income from foreign tourism expanded 15% to \$2.1b. This rise was offset by the sharp drop in foreign interest revenues.

The country's foreign currency reserves rose \$1.5b. after falling by \$1.2b. in 1992 and \$200m. in 1991. By contrast, the banks' foreign assets fell \$200m. after rising \$2b. in 1992 and \$500m. in 1991.



General Motors executive vice president and general counsel Harry Pearce (left) presents a Cadillac replica to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Pearce is visiting the country to explore the potential for cooperation with local companies. He is being accompanied by EDS chairman Lester Alberthal and Hughes Electronics vice chairman Michael Smith. (Ron Alon/Israel Sun)

Contractor suspected of tax evasion released on bail

RAINE MARCUS

AN East Jerusalem building contractor who supplied laborers to employers and allegedly evading taxes out of hundreds of thousands of shekels was released on NIS 115,000 bail in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Yasser Artin, arrested on Tuesday, founded and registered a business using a forged identity card, investigator Yosef Spiro told the court.

Using the same false identity he also allegedly opened a bank account and ordered company invoices.

Artin is suspected of distributing and selling invoices to other companies countrywide and depositing his profits in the bank account opened using the forged identity card.

Under questioning, Artin admitted to offenses of tax evasion and assisting others to defraud authorities.

Earlier this month, Artin was arrested by VAT officials and released on bail.

New York conference promotes Israel investment

**SUE FISHKOFF
NEW YORK**

REPRESENTATIVES of more than 50 American companies heard yesterday on how to do business with Israel, and the payoff was immediate, with Tower Records announcing that they plan to open seven to 10 more branches in the next five years.

Speakers from several American firms that have done well in their Israeli operations offered practical advice on setting up subsidiaries, launching joint ventures and marketing Israeli goods in the US.

The economic conference was sponsored in part by the Economic Mission, the New York-Israel Economic Development Partnership, the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce and the American Zionist Movement.

While making reference to Zionist interests, the emphasis was clearly on investing in Israel for purely business reasons.

Speakers cited the country's skilled labor force, high productivity, favorable government regulations and free trade agreements with the US and European Market as major inducements to Ameri-

can companies like themselves. All praised the government's increasingly friendly attitude towards business, contrasting it to the notorious "red tape" of even a decade ago.

Most said their companies had taken advantage of 38 percent government loans for building plants in Zone A development towns. Boaz Raam, president of Volta International USA, Inc. and Regba-Diran, spoke of his 1993 partnership with Tower Records, which opened its first Israel store in Tel Aviv last September.

Despite the company's hesitation about opening a store in Israel's volatile political climate, Raam said the Tel Aviv store is doing more business per square foot than any of the company's European stores.

Feliz Zandman, CEO of Vishay Intertechnology, Inc., an American company that is the West's largest manufacturer of electronic components, said that his three Israeli plants were far more successful than similar ventures in Japan, South Korea or Mexico, traditional outlets for US investors.

Group warns of economic instability

JOSE ROSENFELD

FEDERATION of Israeli Chambers of Commerce economists yesterday reported that although there are yet no significant signs of a slowdown in economic activity, the present political and security situation is threatening the economy with instability.

According to the economists, most indicators until the end of last month were positive. Tax revenues were up, industrial production rose, imports of production inputs and of machinery and equipment increased, retail trade expanded and the number of jobseekers fell.

The only negative indicators were the drop in industrial exports and in job offers. The recent closure will have a harsh impact on agriculture and on building. The economists estimate the harm suffered by the housing industry will have wider repercussions on the economy, affecting growth and pushing up interest rates.

CTel awarded \$2.3m. order by British Telecom

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

COMPRESSION Telecommunications Corp (CTel), ECI Telecom's 75 percent owned subsidiary, has been awarded a \$2.3 million order by British Telecom, ECI announced yesterday.

CTel will supply British Telecom its Call Clarity Measurement System (CCMS), which monitors performance quality and network traffic measurements in real time. Of the total order, about \$2m. are planned to be delivered this year.

Since ECI acquired 75% of CTel's shares last February, CTel

has received orders from European public telecommunications operators for non-intrusive monitoring systems.

CTel's sales last year were about \$2.3m.

CTel manufactures network monitoring systems that simultaneously perform traffic characterization, performance quality monitoring and fast activity analysis on in-service EIT/IT facilities for telecommunications carriers and private networks.

Elad Hotels plans expansion

HAIM SHAPIRO

ELAD Hotels is planning to expand by 4,400 rooms and establish a network of related tourist industries over the next six years, Elad founder Yitzhak Teshuva announced yesterday.

Teshuva said the hotels are to be three to four star facilities, with added attractions. He also spoke of a luxury spa on the Dead Sea, a museum on Lake Kinneret and said the plans and permits for most of the hotels are already ready.

"All we have to do is start building," he said. "That is very unusual for the hotel industry."

The public company's plans for related tourist industries include operating a tourist bus service, a car rental agency and a network of gas stations, complete with self-service restaurants and souvenir shops.

The three-year-old company currently has a total of 600 rooms, operating Paradise Hotels in Jerusalem, Elat, at the Dead Sea and at Amnun Bay on Lake Kinneret.

Teshuva was speaking at the former Ein Boket Hotel - a 102-room facility which the company acquired from the Histadrut Kupat Holim and renovated at a cost

of \$1.5 million.

Elad plans to build two more hotels at the site on adjoining properties. It also intends to totally renovate the Ein Boket spa, which it acquired together with the hotel, and transform it into a modern tourist spa similar to that in Baden-Baden.

In Elat, the present 247-room Paradise Hotel, which prides itself on its state-of-the-art children's club and pub for teenagers, is to be joined by a Paradise Junior Hotel.

In addition, the company also owns a half share in the Queen of Sheba Hotel, which is being renovated.

The Paradise Kinneret, a vacation village on Amnun Bay, north of Tiberias, was purchased from the Jewish Agency. The company plans to double the present number of 91 units by adding a second floor.

Eventually three more hotels and a vast entertainment center are planned for the site.

Other hotels are envisaged for Haifa, Michmoret, Ashkelon and Beersheba, while the company is negotiating the purchase of existing properties in Netanya and Tel Aviv.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (20.4.94)

Currency (deposit for):

| | 3 MONTHS | 6 MONTHS | 12 MONTHS |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| U.S. dollar (\$250,000) | 3.500 | 3.875 | 4.500 |
| Pound sterling (£100,000) | 3.625 | 3.750 | 4.000 |
| German mark (DM 200,000) | 4.625 | 4.500 | 4.375 |
| Swiss franc (SF 200,000) | 2.000 | 2.000 | 2.875 |
| Yen (10 million yen) | 0.625 | 0.750 | 1.000 |

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (20.4.94)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS

| | Buy | Sell | BANKNOTES | Buy | Sell | Rep. Rates** |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|------|--------|--------------|
| Currency basket | 3.1950 | 3.2400 | — | — | — | 3.1211 |
| U.S. dollar | 2.9823 | 3.0040 | 2.91 | 3.05 | 2.9800 | 2.9800 |
| German mark | 1.7472 | 1.7717 | 1.72 | 1.80 | 1.7547 | 1.7547 |
| Pound sterling | 4.3937 | 4.4555 | 4.21 | 4.51 | 4.4147 | 4.4147 |
| French franc | 0.5078 | 0.5149 | 0.48 | 0.52 | 0.5108 | 0.5108 |
| Japanese yen (100) | 2.8851 | 2.9254 | 2.82 | 2.95 | 2.8524 | 2.8524 |
| Dutch florin | 1.5950 | 1.5769 | 1.53 | 1.60 | 1.5630 | 1.5630 |
| Swiss franc | 2.0542 | 2.0831 | 2.02 | 2.12 | 2.0555 | 2.0555 |
| Swedish krona | 0.3728 | 0.3781 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 0.3762 | 0.3762 |
| Norwegian krone | 0.4019 | 0.4076 | 0.39 | 0.41 | 0.4040 | 0.4040 |
| Danish krone | 0.4447 | 0.4510 | 0.44 | 0.46 | 0.4467 | 0.4467 |
| Finland mark | 0.0389 | 0.0444 | 0.03 | 0.05 | 0.0404 | 0.0404 |
| Canadian dollar | 2.1362 | 2.1683 | 2.10 | 2.20 | 2.1557 | 2.1557 |
| Australian dollar | 2.1155 | 2.1454 | 2.07 | 2.18 | 2.1359 | 2.1359 |
| S. African rand | 0.8328 | 0.8445 | 0.71 | 0.82 | 0.8416 | 0.8416 |
| Belgian franc (10) | 0.8482 | 0.8602 | 0.83 | 0.87 | 0.8519 | 0.8519 |
| Austrian schilling (10) | 2.4048 | 2.5159 | 2.44 | 2.56 | 2.4698 | 2.4698 |
| Italian lira (1000) | 1.8191 | 1.8437 | 1.78 | 1.88 | 1.8305 | 1.8305 |
| Jordanian dinar | — | — | — | — | — | 4.2018 |
| Egyptian pound | — | — | — | — | — | 0.0508 |
| ECU | 3.3694 | 3.4158 | — | — | — | 4.2321 |
| Irish punt | 4.2857 | 4.3258 | 4.17 | 4.43 | 4.2321 | 4.2321 |
| Spanish peseta (100) | 2.1328 | 2.1639 | 2.07 | 2.22 | 2.1423 | 2.1423 |

* These rates vary according to bank.

** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUM

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

STATE OF ISRAEL
Ministry of Health - Supply Services

Tender 11R/035/94
for
SERUM ALBUMIN 25% 50 ML

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The Supply Services of the Ministry of Health hereby invite suppliers to
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15,000 Serum Albumin (Human) 25% 50 ml

Product must be registered with the Ministry of Health-Pharmaceutical Dept.
The tender documents are obtainable at the Supply Services of the Ministry of
Health, 15 Yehuda & Noah Moses St., Tel Aviv, Tel. 03-6972020, against
payment of NIS40.

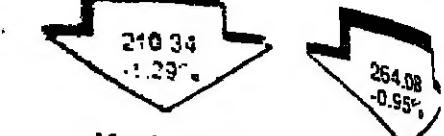
The quotation should be submitted in the Hebrew or in the English language
only, not later than May 29, 1994, in the envelope attached to the
tender documents.

"A fax for you"

Prices fall on
fears of more
investigations

AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSO



These prices declines...
The Maot index...
The Karam index...

Shares close
mostly lower in
lumpy session

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Shares close mostly lower in lumpy session...
The New York Stock Exchange...
The London Stock Exchange...

Drops on worries
over rising rates

WALL STREET REPORT

Agency cross-rates...
The Federal Reserve...
The New York Stock Exchange...

Desperate Chinese stock investors "flee barefoot"

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - China's stock market collapse gathered speed yesterday as large institutions abandoned the bourses, joining a stampede for the exits by an army of individuals, brokers said.

"Investors are fleeing barefoot now," said a broker with a large Shanghai securities house.

Shanghai's A share index for domestic investors slid 5.84%, losing 34.24 points to end at 552.51. The market lost 5.38% on Tuesday and 3.75% the day before.

It is the biggest sell-off in the three-year history of the market and the index is now at its lowest level since the start of 1993, when it became a useful barometer.

Shenzhen's A share market, which usually follows the direction of its much larger Shanghai counterpart, plunged by 7.72 points, or 5.25%, to 131.20.

Brokers said institutional funds began pulling out of the Shanghai market to chase a 65 billion renminbi (\$7.47 billion) bond issue planned for this year by the new Development Bank.

Although the Shanghai market is dominated by small punters, funds have provided some stability.

"The withdrawal of institutions today drained capital from the market," said one floor trader.

The flight by investment funds is an alarming development for China's securities authorities, who have been counting on increased institutional investment to underpin the market and help it mature into an international exchange.

A legion of individuals investing what amounts to loose change in stocks has resulted in huge trading volumes - sometimes exceeding those in the much larger Hong

Bundesbank rate cut fails to lift gloom

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - The Bundesbank announced a sharp-er-than-expected decline in one of its key interest rates yesterday, but failed to alleviate gloom on the domestic bond market, which is paralyzed by fears of rising US rates.

The central bank said its securities repurchase rate - a key for German money-market rates in general - had fallen to 5.58% this week from 5.70% a week ago. The drop was more than market forecasts of a fall of 10 basis points at most.

But German debt futures prices plunged after the news. The June Bund hit a low of 94.35 after closing at 94.85 on Tuesday.

Economists said the bond market appears to be totally incapable of decoupling itself from developments in the US, where interest rates have now risen three times in quick succession in response to strong economic recovery.

As one German economist put it recently, "When it comes down to it, the most important central bank for the German bond market is not the Bundesbank but the US Federal Reserve."

Bond market traders were also apparently worried about signs of recovery in the German economy, which they believe could signal an

end to the German trend to lower rates.

However, some economists believe these fears are unjustified, especially in light of optimistic inflation forecasts from the German central bank.

In a commentary on the bond market, Swiss Bank Corp. economist Armin Kayser wrote, "We believe that growth will be non-inflationary for an extended period, but nervous markets could be thinking otherwise."

Market fears of potentially inflationary German growth were fueled on Tuesday evening by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who said at the opening of the Hanover Trade Fair that "springtime" had come for the German economy after a severe recession.

Kayser said these hopes are justified. "Prospects for recovery have indeed improved," he said.

However, he and BHF Bank chief economist Hermann Rempeserger said economic recovery will not stand in the way of further cuts in Bundesbank interest rates.

The central bank cut both its discount and Lombard rates by a quarter point last week to 5% and 6.5%, respectively. At a news conference to announce the rate cuts, Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer said it is possible that

inflation will fall to below 3% in the second half of this year, a forecast with which Rempeserger agreed.

"By January next year we could have inflation of 2.5% [after 3.2% in March 1994], and then it could head towards 2%," Rempeserger said.

He added markets are skeptical about the price forecasts and about whether the Bundesbank will carry on cutting interest rates. But this skepticism is unfounded, he said.

The consensus among economists is that inflation will continue falling into 1995. "If this is the

case, then the trend to lower Bundesbank interest rates will not be interrupted," Rempeserger said.

The gloom on the German bond market did not carry over to the share market, where prices were up by more than 1% in early trading.

Economists warn against over-optimism

BONN (Reuters) - Optimism about economic recovery in Germany is spreading, but economists warn against too much enthusiasm for the moment.

"Springtime" which Chancellor Helmut Kohl has proclaimed six months before he seeks reelection.

Factory order books are filling up, interest rates and inflation creeping down and the east German upturn is coming on strong - all a marked turnaround from the pessimism that reigned in Germany over the past two years.

But chill winds such as continued job losses and stagnant private consumption still blow,

making economists' forecasts generally more cautious than campaigner Kohl's.

Some analysts are starting to think about nudging their 1994 growth projections up a bit, but most are sticking for the moment with projections of up to one percent overall gross domestic product growth for west Germany this year.

"We are looking at a modest recovery rather than just bumping along the bottom," said Prof. Horst Siebert, head of the Institute for World Economy in Kiel.

"It's nothing stormy but it is certainly a change from the minus 1.9% growth in 1993," said Siebert, a member of the govern-

ment's independent Council of Economic Advisers.

"Kohl's right about the order books and he's right about east Germany - there are a lot of positive signs there," said economist Holger Fahrkrug at UBS in Frankfurt. "The problems are in west Germany."

Kohl, who has been slowly catching up on Social Democrat (SPD) challenger Rudolf Scharping in the opinion polls, opened the Hanover Trade Fair on Tuesday with an optimistic speech about Germany's climb out of its worst post-war recession.

DASA sees losses double but expects profit from 1995

MUNICH (Reuters) - Deutsche Aerospace AG (DASA) reported yesterday that its group net loss more than doubled to DM694 million (\$407.9 million) in 1993, but said it expected to return to profit in 1995.

DASA, the troubled aerospace and defense subsidiary of industrial giant Daimler-Benz AG, said its net loss rose from DM341m (\$200.4m.) in 1992 on sales that increased to DM18.63 billion (\$10.95 billion) from DM17.28b. (\$10.16b.).

Management board chairman Juergen Schrempf said restructuring measures introduced in response to a slump in aircraft sales, world recession and shrinking defense orders were finally starting to show results.

He said 1994 would be difficult as the

company started in earnest its program of cutting the workforce by 16,000 to 70,000 and closing six plants by 1996. One-off provisions of DM1.1b. (\$646.5m.) for job cuts and restructuring measures had depressed 1993 results.

"But we have good reason to be convinced that we will achieve, as announced, the objective of being back in the black in 1995, provided the political-economic environment does not go from bad to worse," Schrempf said.

The crisis-hit aerospace industry, warning that Germany could fall behind the US and Japan in technology, has called on the government to draw up an emergency program for research subsidies in order to maintain competitiveness.

Financial director Manfred Bischoff said the defense and civil systems division had been particularly badly hit by the recession and cuts in military spending after the end of the Cold War. Sales in the division fell by 22% to DM2.8b. (\$1.65b.).

Schrempf said the share of DASA's turnover accounted for by its defense activities had fallen to 27% from over 50% four years ago.

Bischoff said the aircraft group, which includes the German Airbus unit, had grown in importance through the consolidation of Dutch plane manufacturer Fokker and now accounted for more than half of group sales.

He said the maiden flight of the much-delayed Eurofighter plane last month was a

milestone for the aircraft industry. The plane is being developed with British, Italian and Spanish partners.

Bischoff told Reuters in an interview ahead of its annual results conference that the company would have shown a profit in 1993 had it not been for DM1.1 billion (\$646.5 million) set aside for extraordinary items such as restructuring. DASA had laid solid foundations for a return to profit in 1995, he said.

Schrempf sidestepped a question on whether he would replace Edzard Reuter as head of parent company Daimler-Benz after Reuter's expected retirement next year.

"I can answer that precisely. I will be where I will have the greatest fun," he said.



Two London children play with a scaled-up version of the new Cadbury's Dairy Milk chocolate coin. Five pence of the price of every 30p coin will go to the Save the Children Fund. (AP)

US March housing starts rise 12%

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Construction starts on new homes and apartments jumped 12.1 percent in March, the government said yesterday, rebounding for a second straight month after bitter cold forced building activity to plunge in January.

The Commerce Department said builders broke ground on new homes at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.47 million units last month after a start rate of 1.31 million units in February. Housing starts had tumbled 21.2 percent in January.

The increase in March home starts was widespread, with all regions of the nation reporting gains.

It was the highest level of activity since 1.61 million starts in December and exceeded economists' forecast of 1.42 million units at an annual rate.

Economists had predicted a further bounce back from the weather-induced slowdown in January.

Looking ahead, economists said construction activity could come under renewed pressure in coming months because of rising interest rates.

The Federal Reserve boosted short-term rates on Monday for the third time since February, in a bid to head off inflation.

Even before the Fed's move, mortgage rates had been rising

throughout the first quarter, although they fell last week, reversing a four-week increase.

The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. said the average rate on 30-year fixed mortgages fell to 8.26 percent in the week ended April 15, from 8.47 percent the previous week. Rates were as low as 6.82 percent last August, the lowest since 1968.

AT&T reports 17 percent rise in operating profits

AMERICAN Telephone and Telegraph Co. yesterday reported a 17 percent gain in operating profits for the first quarter, to \$1.09 billion, and predicted further gains as the economy strengthens.

The results, equal to 80 cents a share, compared with a \$6.8 billion, or \$5.07 per share loss in the year-ago period, when it took a massive \$7.8 billion charge for the adoption of an accounting change related to post-retirement benefits.

Without the effect of the accounting change, AT&T earned \$936 million, or 69 cents a share, in the 1993 period. (Reuters)

Philip Morris earnings, tobacco market share rise - Philip Morris Cos., the largest US cigarette maker, said Tuesday that its earnings soared 59 percent from last year's first quarter, when its results shrank under the weight of an accounting change.

The New York-based firm, whose brands include Marlboro and Virginia Slims, also said that it is winning the battle in the cigarette price war, which it launched last year by cutting prices by 40 percent to beat the competition.

Philip Morris said its net earnings in the first quarter climbed to \$1.2 billion, or \$1.34 a share, from \$737 million, or 84 cents a share, in the year-ago period. (Reuters)

Bankers Trust reports gain in profits: Bankers Trust New York Corp., which earlier this month was the focus of controversy re-

lated to its management of risky investment losses for consumer products giant Procter & Gamble, reported a 6 percent gain Tuesday in net income.

Bankers Trust reported a net profit of \$164 million for the first quarter, equal to \$1.90 a share, compared with profits of \$155 million, or \$1.75 a share, in the 1993 period. The year-ago results were reduced by \$75 million related to an accounting change associated with retirement benefits, and otherwise would have totaled \$230 million. (Reuters)

Union Carbide earnings soar, takes charge for Bhopal hospital: Union Carbide Corp. said Tuesday its earnings leaped 52 percent in the latest quarter and also disclosed it was taking a \$17 million charge to build a hospital in Bhopal, India, the site of the world's worst-ever industrial disaster.

For the first quarter, the Danbury, Conn.-based chemical producer reported net earnings of \$61 million, or 32 cents a share, compared with profits of \$40 million, or 28 cents a share, a year earlier. It posted revenues of \$1.13 billion, down from \$1.20 billion.

The company said it was taking the charge of \$17 million, equal to 11 cents a share, to construct a hospital for victims of the Dec. 3, 1984 accident in Bhopal at the company's now-closed pesticide factory. Two thousand people were killed and 20,000 were injured. (Reuters)

Air India plans sale of 40% gov't stake

BOMBAY (Reuters) - State-run Air India is expected to sell off up to 40 percent of its government stake and tap global markets for part of the \$2 billion needed to expand its fleet, its new managing director said on yesterday.

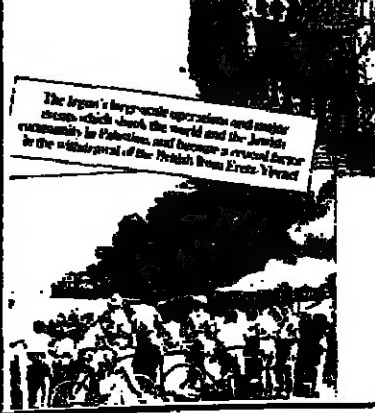
Durga Mathur, who took over as managing director last month, said the government was expected to announce soon the amount the airline would sell off.

"We are keenly awaiting the government's decision on the percentage of divestment. I think the divestment will be around 35 to 40 percent," he said, adding he expected it to be carried out over a four to five-year period.

The partial privatization is part of a radical reform program launched three years ago by the Indian government which has lifted many of the controls on the economy.

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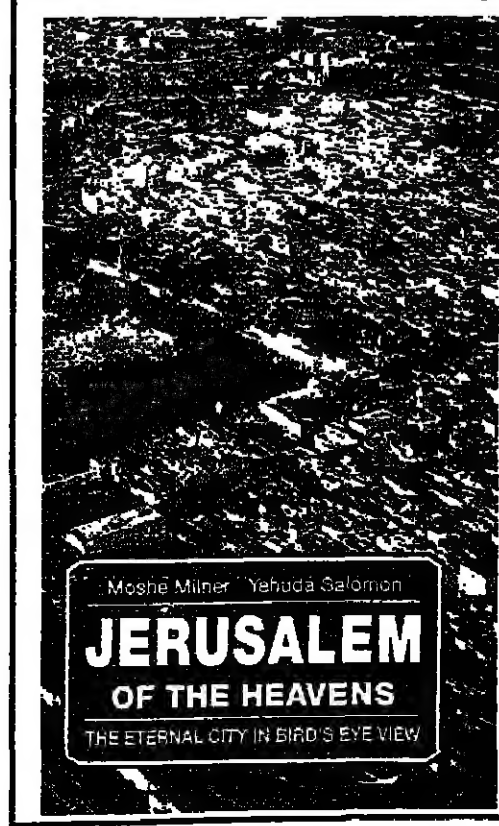
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Tons for Smith, Atherton as England battles on UConn and the Israel connection.

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) - England captain Mike Atherton and Robin Smith were on the verge of a 300-run partnership at tea on the fourth day of the final Test against the West Indies yesterday.

Replying to the home side's 593-5 declared, England reached 367-2 with Smith on 171 and opener Atherton on 131.

The pair had put on 297, overtaking the previous best third wicket record by England against the West Indies of 264, made by Len Hutton and Wally Hammond at The Oval in 1939.

They were even in reasonable distance of the best stand ever made by two Englishmen in a Test match - 411 by Peter May and Colin Cowdrey, against the West Indies in 1957.

Only seven wickets have fallen in a game already marked by Brian Lara's world record test score of 375.

Needing to reach 394 to avoid the follow-on, England, who started the day on 185-2, looked sure to salvage a draw.

Their biggest alarm came before lunch when Courtney Walsh bowled Smith, then on 74, off a no-ball. It was the second time in the innings Smith had "fallen" to a no-ball.



HIGH-FLYING ROBIN - England's Robin Smith celebrates his century against the West Indies. (Reuters)

Israel draws with Lithuania in Vilnius

ORI LEWIS

ISRAEL'S national soccer side continued its successful run in warm-up games for the forthcoming European Nations' Championship campaign, playing out a 1-1 draw with Lithuania in Vilnius yesterday.

After notching up wins in home games against Georgia and Ukraine earlier this year, Israel this week traveled to Lithuania for their first international friendly away from home.

The Israelis got onto the score-sheet as early as the sixth minute, when Ronen Harazi, who chested down a cross from the right from Alon Hazon, then controlled the ball well before shooting home.

Israel's lead held until the 40th minute, when Virginijus Baltusnikas slotted home a ball from close range after a corner kick. Israel beat Lithuania 1-0 in the earlier encounter between the nations' Olympic under-21 squads through a first-half goal by Shai Holtzman, who received a ball on the halfway line from Alon Brumer.

Arsenal draws at Wimbledon

LONDON (AP) - Defender Steve Bould fired his first goal since the start of last season Tuesday to preserve Arsenal's four-month unbeaten league streak in a 1-1 tie with Wimbledon.

After Robbie Earle had headed the Dons ahead at Highbury in the 37th minute, Bould struck in the 51st. Wimbledon's Dutch goalie, Hans Segers, only half cleared an in-swinging corner from Ian Selley and the center-back fired home from close range.

Despite the point, Arsenal, which faces defending titlist Parma in the European Cup Winners Cup final May 4 in Copenhagen, squandered a chance to replace Newcastle as third in the standings behind title chasers Manchester United and Blackburn. Wimbledon remained eighth.

Swiss coach okays sex

GENEVA (Reuters) - Swiss national soccer coach Roy Hodgson has relaxed a sex ban imposed on his World Cup players.

The Swiss daily Blick yesterday quoted the coach as saying wives and girlfriends could visit the players in their hotel rooms after the opening game against the US on June 18 and the last group match against Colombia on June 26.

Hodgson had earlier ordered his players to lead celibate lives from June 7, the date of the squad's departure for America.

Switzerland has qualified for the final rounds of the World Cup after a 28-year absence.

Oilers' linebacker denies choking topless dancer

HOUSTON (AP) - Houston Oilers linebacker Lamar Lathen denies he choked a topless dancer and says he merely pushed her away while defending himself against an attack by the performer.

Regina Anne Williams, 27, filed a complaint March 3, the day after she said Lathen knocked her to the floor and choked her at Michael's International, a topless club.

Penguins even series



NEW YORK (AP) - The Pittsburgh Penguins have the script down pat. After losing the playoff opener for the seventh time in their last 11 series, the Penguins on Tuesday night improved to 8-0 on home ice in Game 2 of a playoff series, edging the Washington Capitals 2-1.

That tied their Eastern Conference quarterfinals series 1-1. Game 3 will be tonight in Landover, Maryland.

In Tuesday night's only other contest, the New Jersey Devils defeated the Buffalo Sabres 2-1 to level their series at 1-1.

The Penguins rode Tom Barraso's goaltending to victory. Barraso stopped 34 of 35 shots and

Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux and Rick Tocchet both scored in the first period.

The Penguins won despite managing only four shots on goal in the final two periods - three in the second and only one in the third.

Michal Pavlik scored Washington's lone goal 57 seconds into the second period on a power play.

Devils 2, Sabres 1
Scott Stevens scored with 6:21 to play on a shot deflected by a Buffalo player to lift host New Jersey Devils to even their best-of-7 series at 1-1.

The Eastern Conference quarterfinal now moves to Buffalo for games tonight and Saturday before returning here for Game 5 Monday.

Steven's game-winning goal was deflected by Buffalo's Yuri Kluyev, who also had a hand in the Devils' first goal, by Stephane Richer early in the second period.

Alexander Mogilyev scored for Buffalo early in the third period.

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Rangers-Islanders, Rangers lead 2-0
Pittsburgh-Washington, tied 1-1
New Jersey-Buffalo, tied 1-1
Boston-Montreal, tied 1-1

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Detroit-San Jose, San Jose leads 1-0
Calgary-Vancouver, Vancouver leads 1-0
Toronto-Chicago, Toronto leads 1-0
Dallas-St. Louis, Dallas leads 1-0

Bosox slam A's with HR barrage

BOSTON (AP) - Mo Vaughn and Tim Lincecum twice hit back-to-back homers and Scott Cooper added a grand slam as the Red Sox defeated the Oakland Athletics 13-5 Tuesday.

The Red Sox, who have beaten the A's seven straight times, hit six home runs, their most in a game since 1981.

Vaughn and Lincecum hit consecutive solo homers in the second and sixth innings. In each case,

Vaughn homered to right and Lincecum followed with a shot that cleared the screen atop the left-field fence.

Aaron Sele (1-0) allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings.

Oakland starter Bob Welch (0-1) allowed seven runs and six hits with four walks in 2-2-3 innings.

Orlando A. Hernandez
Jeffrey Hammonds homered and Lee Smith got his major league-leading seventh save as host Baltimore won its third straight.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division
W L Pct. GB
Baltimore 8 5 .615 1 1/2
Toronto 7 6 .538 2
Boston 6 7 .462 3
New York 5 8 .385 4
Detroit 5 9 .357 5

Central Division
W L Pct. GB
Cleveland 8 5 .615 1 1/2
Kansas City 7 6 .538 2
Chicago 6 7 .462 3
Minnesota 5 8 .385 4
Milwaukee 4 9 .308 5

West Division
W L Pct. GB
Oakland 7 6 .538 2
California 6 7 .462 3
Seattle 5 8 .385 4
Texas 4 9 .308 5

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Dodgers & Phillies 7
Mitch Webster singled in Eric Karros with the winning run in the ninth.

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Los Angeles 8, Philadelphia 7
Montreal 4, San Francisco 3
Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 2
St. Louis 5, Atlanta 4
Houston 3, Chicago 0
Florida 4, Colorado 3
New York 4, San Diego 3
TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Boston 13, Oakland 5
Detroit 9, Kansas City 5
Chicago 6, Milwaukee 2
Seattle 7, New York 1
Toronto 13, Texas 3
Baltimore 4, California 3
Cleveland 7, Minnesota 6

Cowboys most valuable US sports franchise

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dallas Cowboys, estimated to be worth \$190 million, have the highest value of any US sports team, *Financial World* says in its issue released Tuesday.

The Baltimore Orioles, purchased last summer for \$173m by a group headed by Peter Angelos, are worth just \$129m, eighth among the 28 teams, according to the magazine.

The highest-valued baseball team, according to the magazine, is the New York Yankees at \$166m, followed by the Toronto Blue Jays at \$150m and the New York Mets at \$147m.

In the NFL, the Cowboys' value increased \$25m, according to the magazine. The New York Giants have the second-highest value at \$176m, followed by the Philadelphia Eagles at \$172m, the San Francisco 49ers at \$167m and the Cleveland Browns at \$165m.

Movie producer Jeffrey Lurie on April 6 agreed to buy the Eagles for a reported \$185 million, which would be the most paid for a US sports franchise.

The NFL team with the lowest value is the Detroit Lions at \$138m. The baseball team with the lowest value is the Montreal Expos at \$75m.

Financial World said the 28 baseball teams combined for an operating profit of \$168m in 1993 and the 28 NFL teams combined for an operating loss of \$11.2m.

It said the 27 NBA teams combined to earn an operating profit of \$170m, and the 24 NHL teams combined to earn an operating profit of \$74m.

The Los Angeles Lakers have the most value in the NBA at \$168m, followed by the Detroit Pistons at \$154m, the Chicago Bulls at \$149m and the New York Knicks at \$136m. The Indiana Pacers have the lowest value at \$67m.

The Detroit Red Wings have the most value in the NHL at \$104m, followed by the Boston Bruins at \$88m, the Los Angeles Kings at \$85m and the Montreal Canadiens at \$82m. The Winnipeg Jets have the lowest value at \$35m.

"WHEN Doron's mother came to visit him, she was amazed at the muscles he had put on," said University of Connecticut basketball coach Jim Calhoun about his Israeli protégé Doron Sheffer.

Calhoun, here to watch the Final Four, has a high regard for point guard Sheffer, who recently won the Big East Rookie of the Year award and was instrumental in UConn's 29-5 mark, first place in the Big East and a berth in the NCAA Sweet 16.

His concern was evident yesterday as he huddled with national team coach Zvi Sherf to discuss Sheffer's availability for quick returns to Israel. Just as legend has it that Dodge manager Walter Alton kept a Jewish calendar on his desk to accommodate Sandy Koufax, so does Sherf have Sheffer's final exam schedule etched prominently in his mind.

Does Sheffer have a future in the NBA? Calhoun is cautious on the subject, and the circumspection of his answer shows he has been asked this question countless times.

There are players like former UConn star Cliff Robinson, now with Portland, and Sheffer teammates Donnyell Marshall and Ray Allen who are "sure things," he said. Then, one notch down, are athletes like Connecticut grad Chris Smith, now with the Minnesota Timberwolves, who were on the right track, and with the proper development made the grade "through effort and determination rather than raw talent."

Sheffer, Calhoun states, falls into the second category.

He's the perfect height for a point guard (6-foot-5) and with his new muscular frame, which is closing in on 200 lbs., he has the right shape to take the heat. Together with his "inborn feel for the game" and the growth that is sure to come during his ensuing college years, Calhoun is optimistic Sheffer can become the first Israeli to crash the NBA barrier.

How does Sheffer compare with Nadav Henefeld, who was a UConn standout as a freshman in 1991, but chose to return to Maccabi Tel Aviv rather than take a shot at the NBA?

"The two are so much alike, it's eerie," he said. Both have personalities which outwardly convey little emotion, contributing to their nicknames as "icemen." The two share a profound understanding of the game and a heightened maturity, no doubt a result of their "advanced" age when entering college. "On the court, they know how to read situations and are adept at passing, stealing and setting up their teammates. In short,



CONNECTICUT YANKEE HOLDS COURT - UConn basketball coach Jim Calhoun. (Hanoah Gurtmann)

they are both blessed with good instincts."

The difference is that Sheffer, at 6-5, is a good-sized point guard, whereas Henefeld, at 6-6, is a small forward. "At his size, he has to be something special. The late Reggie Lewis at 6-7 and Marshall at 6-9 are also 'small' forwards but

they could jump through the ceiling," Henefeld, he continued, has a wide range of skills, but lacked the one standout characteristic to put him over the top.

Calhoun is quick to remind his listeners that in Gilad Katz's two years with UConn the club won over 40 games. Add that to the 31

wins with Nadav and the 29 with Doron, and one can see how Calhoun has high regard for his Israeli connection. Asked what characteristic, if any, can be attributed to Israeli players, he answered, "a quiet toughness."

The Israeli trio is just a drop in the bucket of the foreign talent that has come to US college basketball. Calhoun cites Cypriot Rony Seikaly of Syracuse and Seton Hall's duo of Ramon Ramos (Puerto Rico) and Andrew Gaze (Australia). Both schools won the Big East when their "foreigners" were on the team.

European ball is "more of an offensive show, with space for the players to shoot, primarily from the outside." NBA and US college ball, by contrast, are "a one-on-one and shake, bake and go-at-you type of play." The influence of the US style was apparent, he said, in the defensive nature of the Greek and Spanish semifinals on Tuesday.

The infusion of extra-American talent helps to create a merger of two distinct styles of play. Put them together and one can see how basketball cuts across the globe to become one of the world's most popular sports.

Calhoun, 50, began his college coaching career 23 years ago when he took over at Northeastern University. For the past eight years, he has been at Connecticut. Before that, he was a high school teacher and coach who took a pay cut to coach in the college ranks.

He has turned down feelers to coach in the NBA, because he considers himself first and foremost an educator.

"I am fascinated with the growth of young people, how they respond to the university experience, which is supposed to be the best years of their life, the years they find themselves," he said.

He encourages his charges to make the most of this special time.

Then what about players who give up their college eligibility to go off to play pro ball? Speaking about Marshall, who should be selected high in the upcoming NBA draft, he says he helps his players "to sort out the pros and cons" to make the right choice.

Marshall stands to make about \$20-30 million. "We're talking about [security for] him, his children and grandchildren," he said.

"He came in third in the vote for the best player of the year. There are 300 Division I teams with a grand total of 4,200 hallplayers, and he was No. 3. What would your advice be?"

Next season should be a Marshall-less year, but since Sheffer has indicated he will return for at least one more year and Ray Allen is still around, it's not such a bad deal.

Olympiakos, Badalona clash in European final tonight

Olympiakos Piraeus and Jovenut Badalona battle tonight for the European Club Championship title. Zeljko Obradovic's Spanish club will try to upset the favored Greeks, coached by Yannis Ioannidis. In the earlier game for third place, Panathinaikos plays Barcelona at 7:30 pm. Eurosport will broadcast both games live from 7:30 pm, and Channel 1 will broadcast live starting at 9 pm.

Hawks seek home-court advantage

NEW YORK (AP) - In the NBA's Eastern Conference, Atlanta, Indiana, New Jersey and Miami won games they needed to win. In the Western Conference, Seattle and Houston lost games they really didn't need to win.

The Hawks, playing their fourth game in five nights, defeated the Knicks 87-84 at Madison Square Garden. If Atlanta wins its final two games (at Miami tonight, and home to Orlando on Saturday), the Hawks will have the home-

court advantage throughout the conference playoffs.

The SuperSonics lost 122-116 at Phoenix, but they knew by halftime they had already clinched the West because San Antonio defeated Houston 90-80 at the Alamodome. Seattle with have the home-court edge as long as it stays alive in the postseason.

Elsewhere, Indiana beat Washington 111-110, New Jersey beat Philadelphia 115-110, Miami beat Minnesota 126-99, Orlando beat Detroit 132-104, Utah beat Sacramento 115-108, Denver beat the

Los Angeles Lakers 105-98 and Boston beat Milwaukee 120-112.

In related developments on Tuesday, the Fab Five was reduced to two as Jalen Rose, following in the footsteps of Chris Webber and Juwan Howard, announced he will leave Michigan early to enter the draft.

That leaves only Jimmy King and Ray Jackson - the two Texans - from the talented freshman class recruited three years ago. Webber is a rookie with the Golden State Warriors, and Howard announced Monday he was turning pro.

The Fab Five went to the NCAA college championship final game in 1992 before losing to Duke. In 1993, they again played for the national championship, but lost to North Carolina.

This season, without Webber, the Wolverines lost to Arkansas in the Midwest Regional final.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Boston 129, Milwaukee 112
Atlanta 87, New York 84
New Jersey 115, Philadelphia 110
Miami 126, Minnesota 99
Orlando 132, Detroit 104
San Antonio 90, Houston 80
Denver 105, L.A. Lakers 98
Phoenix 122, Seattle 116
Utah 115, Sacramento 108

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Heat forces Baumel to end hunger strike

YONA Baumel fell ill and ended his hunger strike yesterday, but his wife said she would continue fasting in an effort to prevent a release of Palestinian prisoners until the fate of Israel's MiAs is resolved.

Baumel's blood sugar dropped sharply on the fourth day of his hunger strike outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. He was taken to the Knesset nearby shortly after noon, where he was given an infusion by the in-house physician, Dr. Yosef Lifshitz. Diagnosing a drop in blood sugar, general weakness, and dehydration, Lifshitz ordered Baumel to stop his fast.

"The doctor ordered me to stop the hunger strike," said Baumel, whose son Zacharia has been missing since the Battle of Sultan Yakoub in Lebanon nearly 12 years ago. "But that doesn't mean the others should stop."

Despite the intense heat, the Baumels maintained their vigil under the trees across from the entrance to the Prime Minister's Office, vowing to continue to strike "until we win or collapse."

The Baumel couple started the hunger strike on Sunday along with the parents of Zvi Feldman, who along with Zacharia Baumel and

STEVE RODAN and BATSHEVA TSUR

Yehuda Katz has been missing since the battle. The Feldmans and the Kats have conducted their vigil in front of the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv.

The Baumels were joined yesterday by high school pupils and students from the Gold Institute, who kept up a steady chant, calling on passing motorists to honk their horns as a sign of solidarity. And indeed, hardly a vehicle went by without a loud toot.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he would raise the issue of the missing soldiers during a meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Bucharest, scheduled to have been held early this morning.

The families of the MiAs are to meet with Faisal Husseini this afternoon, according to him. At the same time, the Organization for the MiAs has received permission to demonstrate outside Orient House, where the meeting will take place.

Baumel said last night that he had asked the police for permission to erect a makeshift covering to protect them against the sun, but that the permission had been denied.

The hunger strike was also discussed in the Knesset plenum. With Miriam and Yona Baumel in the gallery, MKs appealed for an end to the hunger strike as well as for the government to prevent a prisoner release until the fate of the MiAs is disclosed.

"The argument not to release prisoners is correct and just," Labor's Avigdor Kahalani said.

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, responding for the government, said four delegations have met with Arafat to obtain information on the MiAs. "What can I say?" he said. "We haven't succeeded."

Gur, however, rejected the demand to link a Palestinian prisoner release to the MiAs. He said the government had no assurances that such a demand would succeed in obtaining more information about the missing soldiers.

"The question of the MiAs is much more in the realm of morality and humanitarian issues than in the realm of politics and diplomacy," he said.

Gur asked the Knesset to be satisfied with his response, but many MKs demanded a plenum debate on the issue. Gur agreed and the motion for a debate was passed.



One of a group of 50 Jerusalem artists sketches an unusual landscape: the Ashdod oil refinery. The visit by the artists was part of a joint project being carried out by local refineries with the Jerusalem Artists Association, aimed at increasing industry's involvement in advancing original Israeli art. A traveling exhibit of the best of the works will then be produced and exhibited throughout the country. (Hanoch Grizsky/Israel Sun)

Liba'i: Gov't favors stiffer sentences for wiretapping

EVELYN GORDON

THE government will either present its own bill to stiffen the punishment for electronic eavesdropping, or permit a vote on a private member's bill on this subject within a month, Justice Minister David Liba'i told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Liba'i was responding to a bill, sponsored by Sylvan Shalom (Likud), which would raise the penalty for illegal wiretapping from one year in prison to seven.

Shalom said that stiffer sentencing is necessary to persuade those who are caught wiretapping to reveal who paid for the job. The accused is much more likely to turn state's evidence if he knows he faces a seven-year prison term, Shalom noted.

Liba'i said that, in principle, he supports Shalom's proposal, and the Justice Ministry has already prepared its own bill on the issue.

However, he added, since the bill has security implications, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has asked that it be delayed until he can discuss these implications with the various security services.

The key security issue, Liba'i said, is a clause which would require the government to provide information about how much wiretapping is done by the security services, which use this tool in their fight against terrorism.

Another issue which requires the government needs time to consider, he said, is Shalom's proposal that a private investigator convicted of illegal wiretapping automatically lose his license.

Liba'i therefore requested that a vote on Shalom's bill be put off for a month, at which he pointed, he said, he hoped the government would be ready to cooperate with him on this issue. Shalom acceded to this request.

44 died on roads last month

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE carnage on the roads continued last month, claiming 44 lives and leaving 292 people with serious injuries, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Fatalities rose 2.8 percent over February, and serious injuries increased 2.4 percent. The number of accidents last month rose 6.3 percent to 1,527, and the number of injuries increased 10.7 percent to 2,764.

During the first quarter of the year, road fatalities jumped 12.2 percent to 138. Nevertheless, the total number of accidents dropped by nearly a third to 4,601, and serious injuries fell 12.5 percent to 876.

According to police records, there were 1,527 road accidents that killed or injured 2,764 people last month. Forty of the accidents were fatal, and 234 led to serious injuries.

In the first quarter of the year, there were 4,601 accidents, which resulted in 8,104 injuries, including 138 deaths.

Arabs try to steal soldier's weapon in bus station

A GROUP of Arabs tried to steal a soldier's weapon in Tel Aviv's central bus station Monday night.

Khalil Daoud, of Gaza, captured by police, was brought before Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday. Daoud, who turned out to be in Israel illegally, said the soldier hit him after asking to see his identity card.

However, Judge Miriam Sokolov was convinced there was evidence connecting him to the crime, and ordered him remanded for eight days. Police are still seeking other suspects who fled the scene.

(Itim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labor presents Na'amat list

The Labor candidate for secretary-general of Na'amat, Ofra Friedman, last night presented her party's list for the 16th Na'amat congress and elections in May. Among the Labor candidates are Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ora Namir, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Masha Lubelsky, and MKs Yael Dayan and Dalia Izzik. Some 792,000 potential voters will pick the new leadership of Na'amat. The Labor Party won 58.7% of the votes in the last elections.

British Airways joins airfare war

Competition appears to be warming up on fares to New York as British Airways yesterday announced that it is offering a round trip ticket for \$878, \$71 less than the \$949, which is El Al's lowest fare on the route.

The British Airways fare, which is valid until mid-June, is for six to 21-day stay, with an optional stopover in London. The company has two daily flights between Tel Aviv and London and six a day between London and New York.

El Al spokesman Nuchman Kleiman said yesterday that it was too early to say whether the national airline would be matching the British Airways price.

"El Al has an advantage because we have non-stop flights," Kleiman said.

He added that no one wanted to get into a fare war which would bring losses to the airlines.

Tower Air spokesman Dan Arkin also said that his airline had no plans of lowering its fare beyond the \$949 level. In the past, Tower has had a policy of pricing its round-trip fares \$50 below those of El Al.

'A Mission with a Difference'

Canadian friends of the Hebrew University School of Dental Medicine have found a novel way to raise money for the faculty: a 240-kilometer bicycle trek from Kibbutz Hagoshrim to Jerusalem.

The journey, called "A Mission with a Difference," will begin on May 4 and end on Jerusalem Day, May 9. At the end, the cyclists will reach the university's Mt. Scopus campus and be received by the dean of the dental school, Prof. Adam Shabbol.

Each participant will cover the cost of the journey plus a minimum contribution of Can\$1,500. The group hopes to be joined by local cyclists and delegations from other countries. For information, call Yair Hirshfeld, (02) 581253.

Kronos concert canceled

A concert by the Kronos Quartet, scheduled for this Saturday in the Mann Auditorium as part of the Classic Eden Days festival, has been canceled due to poor ticket sales. No other performances by the ensemble had been planned here.

Prisoner remanded for alleged armed robbery while on furlough

RAINE MARCUS

A PRISONER on furlough, suspected of committing an armed robbery the day before he was supposed to return to Ma'assiyahu prison, was remanded for eight days in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Police suspect that Amir Templeberger, currently serving a six-year sentence for armed robbery, was ordered to collect a debt by another prisoner serving a life term.

Templeberger, wearing a stocking over his face and gloves, allegedly arrived Sunday at a Holon man's apartment and brandishing a pistol equipped with a silencer, demanded cash from the man.

The man, who police hinted

may be involved in several illegal businesses, handed over NIS 800 but Templeberger demanded an additional NIS 2800. The man promised to meet him the next day to give him the money.

On Monday, police also turned up for the meeting and after a struggle, arrested Templeberger, who had a knife in his possession. A woman accomplice, Ruti Jovanni, who was found with NIS 1900, was also apprehended, but under questioning she said she was only accompanying the prisoner.

The gun used in the previous day's robbery was not found and Templeberger is refusing to cooperate with investigators.

Pre-sentence hearing held for Rishon Lezion mayor convicted of breach of trust

RAINE MARCUS

RISHON Lezion Mayor Meir Nitzan, convicted on two counts of breach of trust last month, appeared for a pre-sentence hearing in Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

Nitzan was convicted of, among other things, paying publicist Menahem Shai a monthly NIS 2,000 fee regardless of whether promotional work he was to do for Nitzan and the community was carried out.

Shai's appointment as manager of the town's symphony orchestra even though he did not qualify

according to existing selection procedures - was also part of the breach of trust charges.

Following the testimonies of character witnesses and the arguments of both prosecution and defense lawyers, Judge Oded Mudrich postponed sentencing until Sunday.

By law, a judge must determine whether breach of trust was criminal or not. If the judge determines that the act was criminally motivated, it would fall under a category of dishonor or disgrace requiring the mayor to resign.

Prosecutor Moshe Shilo asked Mudrich to rule that Nitzan's conviction does fall in this category, and that he should resign. Shilo also requested Mudrich impose a suspended sentence and fine on the mayor. Nitzan, said Shilo, was aware of his deeds and acted dishonestly. The public, he said, expect an impeccable and moral behavior from a man of Nitzan's standing.

Defense lawyer Amnon Evron argued that the court should rule that the offenses were not criminal and therefore do not constitute dishonor or disgrace, because Nitzan acted for the good of the public and not for personal gain.

"It is sufficient punishment that my client has a conviction," said Evron.

Kirschenbaum denies politicization of IBA

GREER FAY CASHMAN

BROADCASTING Authority director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum yesterday denied allegations that the IBA is serving the interests of the government.

"There is no politicization in the IBA," he told the IBA plenum in response to accusations that the authority is lacking in balance and had lost its integrity and objectivity.

Members of the plenum complained that there seems to be no criticism of government policy on Channel 1 or on Israel Radio; that interviewers are never aggressive in the questions they put to the prime minister or foreign minister; and that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin receives a disproportionate share of air time compared to that given to Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

The IBA's alleged bias in favor of Haim Ramon in the upcoming Knesset elections also came in for sharp rebuke.

Conceding that too much coverage may have been given to Rabin, Kirschenbaum said that the IBA would check itself more carefully in the future. As for how much time should be allocated to Netanyahu, Kirschenbaum declared that it isn't the number of

seconds or minutes that counts, but the content of what was said or seen.

"Not every comment by the prime minister requires a reaction from the leader of the opposition," he observed, adding that outside of election campaigns there is no need to give equal time to political rivals.

The IBA, he underscored, does not support any of the candidates in the Knesset elections. Admitting that Likud candidate Ya'acov Shamai has received minimal coverage, Kirschenbaum noted the difference between what is broadcast purely as information, and what is genuinely news. "The fight between Haim Ramon and Haim Haberfeld is the story," he said. "To focus on Shamai would be artificial."

Urging the plenum not to turn the IBA into a contest between the left and the right, Kirschenbaum emphasized that the task of its reporters is to try to present the most reliable information possible.

Kirschenbaum was willing to provide transcripts to prove that IBA interviewers have put some very tough questions to both Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

Two unarmed Iraqis infiltrate from Jordan, seek asylum

TWO unarmed Iraqi men crossed the Jordan River in their underwear yesterday and then approached an Israeli army base asking for political asylum.

The army said the two were being questioned by police after they infiltrated waving a white flag. The infiltration was near Kibbutz Kfar Ruppin in the Jordan Valley.

The men apparently had a criminal record and decided to try seeking asylum in Israel after failing to obtain citizenship in Jordan. Four other Iraqis infiltrated Israel just north of the same spot earlier this month. They are also being questioned. Israel usually finds other countries to take Iraqis seeking asylum. (Itim)

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